FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 APRIL 1985

Lebanon

A cease-fire was concluded after artillery and rocket shelling resumed along Beirut's contact lines, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, the Phalangist Lebanese Forces in a statement carried by clandestine Radio Free Lebanon called on citizens for a "general strike" 27 April to protest the continued "attacks" in the Sidon area and because the Lebanese Army continued to "hesitate" in assuming its duty to protect the area. The Lebanese Army deployment in the Sidon area "could not be completed" because of "armed militamen," according to Beirut radio. However, the radio noted that the Army was taking up positions in the areas vacated by the IDF, while Jerusalem radio stated that Jabal al-Baruk was seized by the Druze.

Sudan

Following the cabinet's swearing-in ceremony before the Transitional Military Council (TMC), Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah and the cabinet held their first session, SUNA reported. Commenting on the Cabinet's discussion of the problem of the South, the cabinet spokesman noted that "channels of dialogue were open" between Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) leader Colonel John Garang and trade union groups, the agency disclosed. As for foreign relations, the agency reported that a TMC member affirmed Sudan's "keeness" to restore relations with Ethiopia and that a TMC delegation will visit Ethiopia soon. However, the Sudanese Popular Front-Revolutionary Committees Movement leader, who was returning to Sudan from Libya, pledged to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that "we shall remain on the path of struggle under your green flag," according to JANA. The socialist front members and their leader were congratulated on their return to the "homeland" by TMC Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhabab, SUNA observed.

Egyptian Relations

President Husni Mubarak, describing the tripartite talks in Jordan with King Husayn and Oman's Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id as "extremely good," said the summit dealt with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the Iran-Iraq war, and Lebanese issues, MENA reported. Mubarak also stressed the role of the new maritime line between Jordan and Egypt in strengthening bilateral relations, the agency noted. In a statement published in the Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* cited by WAM, Mubarak disclosed that Egypt has had contacts with Syria on the Palestinian issue. Meanwhile, Egypt will not agree to a summit with Israel unless "three preconditions" are met, Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni told Jerusalem radio. They are Israel's "full withdrawal" from Lebanon "without any checkpoints" in the security area, steps toward comprehensive peace, and arbitration on the Tabah problem.

Iran-Iraq

The Iraqi Air Force raided "two very large maritime targets" near Khark Island, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. In a separate development, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told IRNA that if the UN Security Council failed to condemn Iraq, it would lead to "further escalation of the war."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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PLO Cites Soviet Envoy's Reaffirmation of Support

LD252046 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Apr (TAP) — The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and its total support for the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. This has been announced by an official Palestinian source in Tunis. This position was expressed by the ambassador of the Soviet Union in Tunis, Vsevolod Kizichenko, during talks he had on the morning of 24 April in Tunis with the PLO representative in Tunisia, Hakim Balawi.

During the 2-hour talks, which were devoted to an examination of the situation in the Middle East and developments connected with the Palestinian cause, particularly the attacks by Israel and its acolytes on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, the Soviet diplomat expressed his country's condemnation of the "fascist terrorism practiced on the Palestinian people by the Zionist soldiery and their collaborators, with the support of American imperialism" — this was said in a press communique published by the PLO office in Tunis.

In addition to examining the results of the fascist aggressions on the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon and in Beirut, particularly the human and material losses sustained by Palestinian families, the two officials reviewed the manuevers of the imperialists and the Zionists and their allies against the aims of the just fight of the Palestinian people.

In this (?respect) they mentioned the PLO resistance, under the leadership of the chairman of its Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, to these manuevers and its determination to cause all their plans to fail. According to the communique, these plans involve seizing the precious acquisitions of the long struggle of the Palestinian people, damaging their inalienable national rights, weakening their desire to continue the fight, and depriving them of the right to make their own decisions.

Commentary Criticizes Shultz' Statement on Mideast

JN251230 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1608 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Nothing in the U.S. secretary of state's remarks that [words indistinct] within the endeavors to realize peace in the Middle East. These statements, which came in a speech by Shultz at an annual meeting of the U.S.-Israeli working committee, smack of bitter irony with regard to the serious Arab efforts that were exerted and crystallized in recent months.

Shultz' statements were confined to the narrow, floating framework of Reagan's 1982 initiative. As in the Reagan initiative, remarks that may have positive explanation in Shultz' statements will have negative meaning when they are attached to later definitions. For example, saying that the United States does not approve of the principle of annexing the West Bank and Gaza to Israel is meaningless as long as Shultz grants Israel the right not to withdraw to the 1967 borders for security reasons. These remarks are further rendered useless when Shultz links them with autonomy for the Palestinians in what remains of these territories in accordance with the Camp David agreements.

Certainly, there is nothing in what Shultz calls peace that preserves the dignity and legitimate rights of the Palestinians, if the well-known U.S. stands on the Palestinians and their rights are reiterated. Yesterday, Shultz reaffirmed his rejection of the Palestinian state, of negotiations with the PLO unless it recognizes Resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist, and of the Palestinian right of self-determination. The bitter irony comes when Shultz insists that an opportunity to find a speedy settlement in the Middle East is now available. Moreover, Shultz promises that the United States will offer protection for those who will participate in realizing such settlement.

Shultz views the settlement and peace in accordance with our previous explanations. Shultz wants to give Israel all the cards for a winning bargain. He wants the Arab side to grasp this quick bargain amid the confusion that surrounds Arab rights and amid all the negative responses that beset the Palestinian people. The inherent irony in Shultz' statements is that the U.S. secretary of state is aware of the nature of the bargain for which he is calling. He knows that any Arab who goes for this bargain will embark on an adventure fromn which he will not eventually gain anything. Shultz laughs when he offers his protection to such Arabs. To whom is Washington offering its protection? Is it offering it to Jordan or to Palestinians who go without Palestinian identity cards to approve the Israeli-U.S. peace? From whom will Washington protect them? From Syria or from possible popular opposition?

How stupid Shultz' remarks are. Since when have those who go for a just peace needed protection? Since when has the United States started offering protection to anyone except Israel, which has always opposed all forms of justice and peace in the region and which has created a threat to our land and people? Peace is not a quick adventure as Shultz wants it to be. Peace means establishing Arab rights, headed by the Palestinian rights to land, to a state, and to self-determination.

Certainly, nobody will go for a quick U.S. peace adventure. Not Jordan, not the Palestinians without a Palestinian identity card. In other words, the PLO will never consider this flagrantly trivial adventure.

It is true that we call and work for a just peace. However, nobody will need protection, except from U.S. and Israeli threats, if the appropriate conditions for such a peace become available.

Commentary on PLO Diplomatic Moves, Armed Struggle

JN261225 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1612 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Making diplomatic endeavors for a just peace while national movements and the people behind them pursue armed struggle are a strategic principle in the national movements' struggle. In fact, the struggling people's experience provides many examples, proving that this principle is correct and

efficient. Experience has also taught us that the equilibrium between peaceful diplomatic moves and armed struggle must not be disturbed. If the side that is making diplomatic endeavors for peace does not prove its power in daily, practical ways, then its endeavors will be meaningless and worthless. The enemy that makes concessions which are only comparable to its losses will not respond to any demand from someone who does not continuously prove that he is able to equate his demands with his enemy's losses. These are general and correct principles that contemporary national causes applied in almost every successful case.

In the case of the Palestinian national movement, perhaps it is not enough to only adhere to this equilibrium. We should always give preference to our strength. This is because, as every Palestinian realizes, we are facing an enemy whose specifications as a colonial enemy do not concern external colonialism. Zionism wants the Palestinian land and wants its state on Palestinian territories. Zionism also seeks to cancel all of the Palestinian people. Zionism has not hesitated to use all types of genocide in an effort to achieve these objectives. In confronting his enemy, hardly any Palestinian has escaped unharmed, whether in his body, his family, his land, his money, his culture, or his identity.

The war still exists and the confrontation is still here. If the enemies of peoples and their national movements do not understand the language of logic, rights, and dialogue, then Zionism, with its distinguished extreme objectives and practices, is the first among the people's enemies to not understand this language. Our people and their national movement are well-advised to not ignore this fact when practicing the two aspects of their struggle — diplomatic moves and armed struggle. No one denies that our Palestinian people under the PLO's leadership have proved their fitness for making sacrifices. With this fitness, the Palestinian people have gained an important position in the conflict equation in the region. They have also achieved strong and wide international recognition. Consequently, the Palestinian people have occupied the position of an appropriate force in the confrontation of the enemy. [passage indistinct].

The Palestinian people have expressed their awareness of the fact that the possibilities of solving their question are difficult and intermingled through the PNC resolutions — resolutions that adopt stages in order to attain the inalienable and legitimate rights. However, the sacrifices offered and the positions occupied were only considered on the basis of their continuity. In considering the balance of power, that past is not significant in any diplomatic move if it is not followed by future deeds. As the PLO seeks to participate in the current peaceful diplomatic move with correct awareness, the PLO and all Palestinian people should consider this move as a secondary structure. The firm primary structure must be based on the strength that is represented by the armed struggle. The balance of power, with all the daily and practical struggle details, is the one thing that must attract our people's attention. Without this, our diplomacy will be worthless.

Joint Forces Continue Operations in Lebanon

JN260612 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces continue to escalate their operations against the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in southern Lebanon. The group of martyr Husayn 'Ayishah launched a violent attack on a mechanized Zionist enemy patrol on Al-Burghuliyah- Al-Qasimiyah road last night, destroying a military half-track and injuring everyone on it. The group returned safely to its base.

The heroes of the joint forces shelled a Zionist camp in Tyre, southern Lebanon, with katyushas last night, killing or wounding several Zionist soldiers.

The heroes of the joint forces used automatic weapons and rockets last night to attack a military position belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon near the village of Al-Zafir, in southern Lebanon. Several agent elements were killed or wounded.

The Zionist spokesman admitted all of these operations. He said that his forces waged a large-scale campaign in search of the heroes of the joint forces, but this was in vain.

BAHRAIN

PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit

Arrives in Manama

GF251432 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Apr (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Manama today from Kuwait on a visit to Bahrain within a tour of a number of the region's countries.

During this visit, 'Arafat will hold talks with senior Bahraini officials on the current developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, and the results of his tour in a number of Asian countries.

On his arrival, he was received by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister; and Wafa al-Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain.

Received by Amir

GF251434 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Apr (WAKH) — Today His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, received here Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who arrived in Bahrain earlier today.

During the meeting, they reviewed Palestinian issues in particular, Arab and international issues in general, and matters related to the PLO. 'Arafat also informed his highness the amir of Bahrain of the results of his tour in a number of Asian countries.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister; and Wafa al-Naban, director of the PLO office in Bahrain.

Views Lebanon, Murphy Tour

GF260540 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Manama, 25 Apr (WAKH) — In a statement to WAKH tonight, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat warned against what is taking place on the Lebanese arena. It is possible that the Palestinians will face the threat of their camps being stormed as a result of the sectarian war going on between the Lebanese nationalist forces.

Regarding U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's current tour of the region, 'Arafat said: His mission is to look for Palestinians who will accept participation in the U.S. plot for what Washington is intending to do. Our reply to this is what Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territories announced, who emphasized the need for realizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to set up an independent state and considering the PLO the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

KUWAIT

Government Spending Reduced in Draft Budget

GF251046 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Kuwait has lopped more than KD [Kuwaiti dinars] 150 million off government spending in a deficit draft budget for the new financial year announced yesterday by the state minister for cabinet affairs, Rashid al-Rashid.

The budget, with a shortfall of KD 645.73 million, expects revenue from both oil and other sources to be down in the current year.

The budget for the 1985/86 financial year puts total revenue at KD 3.116 billion compared to KD 3.227 billion this year.

The projected deficit stands at KD 645.73 million compared to KD 704.1 million for the current year.

Spending by ministries and government establishments has been set at KD 3.42 billion compared to KD 3.578 this year.

Oil revenue is estimated at KD 2.8 billion and represents 89.9 percent of total government revenue. In the current year oil revenue is projected at KD 2.912 billion.

Non-oil income stands at KD 314.1 million in the new budget.

The budget sets aside KD 311.6 million for the future generation reserves. This is slightly down on the KD 322.7 million for future generations in the current budget.

A further KD 30 million has been allocated to the capital of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

For government spending 21.1 percent of the budget or KD 721.13 million goes on wages and salaries. This compares with KD 724.2 million in the current budget.

KD 425 million or 12.4 percent has been allocated to services, compared to KD 503.3 million in the current budget.

Construction projects take 20.3 percent of government cash at KD 694 million, but this is sharply down on construction spending this year, which was KD 812.6 million.

Transport and services take 0.9 percent of the budget at KD 30 million, while the budget for expropriations is static at KD 150 million or 4.4 percent of state spending.

The lion's share of the budget goes on "unclassified spendings and transfer payments" which at KD 1.4 billion represents 40.9 percent of spending.

Further on PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat's Visit

Holds Press Conference

JN260602 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has accused Syria of foiling an Islamic mediation committee plan to end the Iraq-Iran conflict. Speaking at a news conference he held in Kuwait yesterday before leaving for Bahrain, 'Arafat said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy are in agreement on ruling out PLO participation in possible Middle East peace negotiations. He affirmed that it is not possible to ignore the PLO in any search for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Arafat also said that Al-Asad and Murphy also agreed to prevent any Palestinian fighter from entering southern Lebanon. 'Arafat expressed concern over the conditions of Palestinian camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon, and reiterated that 80 percent of the anti-Israeli operations in southern Lebanon were launched and are being launched by Palestinian fighters, as he put it.

'Arafat Departs

LD252036 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1607 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Apr (KUNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization has left the country after a 2-day visit to Kuwait where he had talks with his highness the amir of Kuwait; the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; and with the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Bajir. These talks centered on the latest developments in the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon, and the results of the efforts of the Islamic Good Offices Committee to stop the Iraq-Iran war.

QATAR

PLO's 'Abbas, Fatah's Al-Natshah Depart Doha

GF251902 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Doha, Apr 25 (WAKH) — Member of the PLO Executive Committee Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, and member of the Central Committee of Fatah movement Rafiq al-Natshah left Doha today after a six-day visit to Qatar.

In a statement before departure, Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas said "we briefed top Qatari officials on the latest political developments on the Arab arena, mainly matters connected with the Palestinian issue."

Means of bolstering relations between Qatar and the Palestine Liberation Organisation were also reviewed.

SAUDI ARABIA

Commentator Views 'Relative' Stability in Oil Market

LD260558 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The international oil market is now witnessing relative stability that is expected to lead to further improvement in the future. A meeting of OPEC Executive Ministerial Council will be held in Geneva on 30 April to discuss the latest developments in the international oil market situation and the effects of this in the fields of production and prices. OPEC production witnessed a decline this month of approximately 1 million barrels a day, to 15 million barrels instead of the 16 million fixed by the organization as a total production for all its member-states. Observers say that the decline is the result of the noticeable role played by the monitoring committee which is doing its work well. It was assisted in this by all member-countries, a matter that reflects a good feeling of cohesion which is in the producing countries' supreme interest. The followup committee is also studying all the decisions made by non-OPEC oil producers in order to evaluate the developments in prices. It is known that non-OPEC producers show understanding of OPEC's role in the oil market, a role characterized by the responsibility of balancing the interests of the producer and consumer. The study and evaluation of the factors with a direct relation to the oil market is being carried out in a [word indistinct] way. Among these factors is the conclusion of the miners strike in Britain, and the increase in the dollar's value vis-a-vis other international currencies. All of these are factors that OPEC takes into consideration and deals with their development in a way that preserves the producing countries' interests. Hence, OPEC will remain capable of carrying out its effective and influential role in the operation of human prosperity on the basis that oil continues to constitute the major force in operating the wheel of the international economy in all its sectors. Thus, OPEC follows with interest oil market developments out of its desire to maintain the balance based upon the [word indistinct] the facts of things, a matter that will lead to cohesion between the producer and consumer for the sake of the common interest.

UAE

Commentary Examines Development of Armed Forces

GF251040 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 25 Apr 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Building Up the Defence Network"]

[Text] President Shaykh Zayid yesterday presided over the annual grand parade of the military schools, and on Tuesday, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, had also visited military installations at the Zayid Military City. Both events symbolise the government's commitment to the building up of an effective defence network for the country. Shaykh Khalifah said that the UAE was determined to intensify its efforts to improve

and expand the Armed Forces, which formed one of the "pillars of the federation".

Since the unification of the country's Armed Forces in May, 1976, tremendous strides have indeed been made in providing the Army, Air Force and Navy with men and weapons. Ten batches of cadets have passed out from the Zayid Military Academy, and there is a continuous drive to stimulate more young people to take up a career in the Armed Forces. At the same time, some summer courses to give military training to students in their spare time have also been organised. A proposal is now being studied to start a four-year degree course in military science at the Emirates University, possibly by incorporating the military college into the latter as a separate faculty. This should increase professionalism and the mental horizon of our budding soldiers, and provide an opportunity to study military science even to students who may not want to join the Armed Forces but who would certainly gain from it. It should also strengthen the link between the Armed Forces and the community. It has been a feature of the growth and development of the Armed Forces here that there has been no rigid compartmentalisation of society, a fact which has prevented any tendency towards elitism and contributed to the effectiveness of our soldiers as defenders of the national interest.

Some form of limited compulsory military service for national students might also be found useful in this context — and not merely in the UAE. Almost all AGCC member-states are in the same situation where manpower needs for defence and security are concerned, and an agreed policy on this should be of obvious advantage. It should also be seen whether, apart from the joint military exercises that are held periodically, greater mutual use cannot be made by the AGCC countries of one another's training and educational facilities. This would save resources which can be diverted to the establishment of a regional armaments industry, freeing us from the continuing dependence on foreign sources.

PDRY

Further on YSC Secretariat Session in Aden

Al-'Attas Meets YAR's Al-'Arashi

GF251746 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received at his office Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs in the northern part of the homeland. During this meeting, Brother Al-'Attas was briefed on the progress of the works of the Yemeni Supreme Council's [YSC] Secretariat and its preparations for holding the ministerial committee session in Sanaa shortly.

The meeting was also attended by Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of state for unity affairs.

Rumors of Plane Crash in Greenland Denied

GF251610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Responsible PDRY sources have denied reports by some Western news agencies on the crash of a plane belonging to the PDRY in Greenland on 20 April. These sources stressed that no PDRY planes have been involved in such an incident. These sources said that these reports are part of a chain of false news items promoted by opposing media organs against the PDRY.

YAR

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Gulf Conflict

GF251854 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Apr 85

["Text" of Foreign Ministry statement — read by announcer]

[Text] The YAR follows with deep sorrow and great anxiety the reports on the new Iranian concentrations on the international borders between the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While the YAR reiterates its appeal to the brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran to return to God's assistance and accept the principle of negotiations in order to arrive at a solution that is just and honorable to the two sides of the conflict, it calls on the international community, as represented by the UN Security Council, and particularly its five permanent member-countries, to make serious and effective efforts to persuade the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop this war which threatens peace and security in the world.

Joint Communique Issued on CSSR's Chnoupek Visit

GF221858 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Apr 85

["Text" of YAR-CSSR joint communique issued 22 April on the visit to the YAR by Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR Foreign Minister, from 20 to 22 April]

[Text] At the invitation of Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR foreign minister, visited the YAR from 20 to 22 April 1985.

During his visit, he was received by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress and Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Standing Committee.

Official talks were held by the YAR and CSSR officials. Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, led the YAR side. CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek led the CSSR side.

A climate of amity, friendship, and frankness prevailed during the talks. They reviewed the course of bilateral relations and the ways of developing them. They also exchanged views on the most important international issues.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the growth of relations between the two countries for the good of their mutual interest. They agreed to consolidate and develop these relations in the various economic, technical, cultural, and scientific cooperation fields.

Bohuslav Chnoupek, the CSSR foreign minister, presented a detailed explanation of his country's experience and its achievements in various spheres, in accordance with the set plans.

Likewise, the brother deputy prime minister and foreign minister presented the YAR experience in political, economic, and cultural fields and the achievements it has made based on the plans it has followed, and demonstrated the valuable steps made toward reuniting the two parts of Yemen.

The CSSR side valued the efforts that the YAR makes with regard to the cause of the Palestinian people and their legitimate and just rights, and the establishment of a stable and just peace in the Middle East.

The YAR side valued the peaceful foreign policy that the CSSR adopts with regard to international issues, and the support it gives — springing from this policy — to our just Arab causes.

On reviewing the current international situation, the two sides expressed their great anxiety at the prevailing tension in international relations, and stressed the need to spare humanity the tragedies of the nuclear race, and the militarization of outer space. The two sides also emphasized their mutual desire for a climate of cooperation and understanding to prevail in international relations, in which justice, security, and prosperity will be secured for all the peoples of the world.

The two sides welcomed the beginning of negotiations in Geneva between the USSR and the United States, on all the issues pertaining to nuclear and space weapons, for the purpose of limiting the arms race, and lessening tension in international relations. They also expressed their support for the continuation of dialogue within the framework of the security and cooperation conference in Europe which is regarded as a consolidation of international peace and security.

While reviewing the situation in the Middle East, the two sides strongly denounced the continuation of the aggressive and expansionist policy practiced by Israel and those who support it, in relation to the Arab countries and the Palestinian people. The two sides emphasized their total support for the struggle carried out by the Palestinian people in order to regain all their legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state under the PLO leadership.

The two sides expressed their support for the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, since it is the practical framework to achieve the desired just peace.

The two sides also affirmed that it is important that Israel abide by the UN resolutions on the Middle East issue and withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories.

About the current war between Iraq and Iran, the two sides expressed their extreme concern for the continued escalation of this war, which has caused and is still causing many tragedies to the peoples of the two countries and vast material damage. The two sides stressed the importance of an immediate cease-fire, the ending of the war, and the beginning of negotiations to find a solution to all the disputed issues through peaceful means.

The two sides strongly denounced the [word indistinct] policy that is being adopted by the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon and which are designed to destabilize Lebanon and harm its national unity and regional safety. The two sides saluted the brave battle waged by the Lebanese resistance against the occupation forces, affirming their support by all means.

The CSSR side praised YAR's significant and constructive role in the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides affirmed the United Nations' role in international relations and in finding a solution to the conflicts between countries through peaceful means and in assuring international security and peace. The views of the two sides agreed the that terror is being practiced by the racist South African regime against the African nationalists and the people of the occupied Namibia, and that this requires the quick exertion of effective international efforts to put an end to the practices of the racist regime of Pretoria.

A cooperation agreement was signed in the health field. Bohuslav Chnoupek thanked the Yemeni side for the good welcome and hospitality. He extended an invitation to the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, to make an official visit to the CSSR. The invitation was accepted. The date will be fixed later.

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir Arrives in Sanaa

GF260406 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Brother Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country. He will hold talks with the brother officials on recent developments in the Palestinian arena.

Mubarak, Husayn, Qabus Open Aqaba-Nuwaybi' Ferry

Husayn, Qabus Arrive

JN251335 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Nuwaybi' — His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id arrived at the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi' today to inaugurate the sea bridge linking Aqaba with Nuwaybi' from the Egyptian side. Upon their arrival at the port of Nuwaybi', the two leaders were received by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, senior Egyptian officials, and a crowd of Sinai citizens.

The inauguration ceremony of the maritime line will be held in a short while when His Majesty King Husayn, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and His Majesty Qabus ibn Sa'id will inspect the Nuwaybi' installations and cut the ribbon signaling the launching of the ship *Tabah*, which will be the first ship to sail from Nuwaybi' to Aqaba.

His Majesty King Husayn, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will return to Aqaba this afternoon where the main ceremony to inaugurate this bridge will be held at the Yarmuk floating dock, which was designated for serving the line, amid official and public preparations to celebrate this great occasion that will affect the entire Arab homeland.

His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak will deliver two speeches on this pan-Arab occasion. The streets of Aqaba are decorated with Jordanian, Egyptian, and Omani flags. The three leaders' portraits and welcome banners expressing Arab unity and cohesion and praising this great pan-Arab move were erected.

Ceremony Held

GF251738 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id participated with his brothers, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan, and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of fraternal Egypt, in a grand ceremony that was held today in the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi' to mark the beginning of operations for the maritime ferry line that links Aqaba port on the Jordanian side to Nuwaybi' port on the Egyptian side.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made a speech on this important occasion welcoming his brothers, His Majesty the Sultan of Oman and His Majesty King Husayn, for participating with him in inaugurating this splendid achievement. He said that this achievement creates closer ties and makes distances nearer among the sons of the united Arab nation.

At the conclusion of His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's speech on this occasion, he made his way, together with their majesties, and the participants, to the port where he gave the starting signal to the ferry *Al-Husayn* [as heard], to begin its first journey on the maritime line between the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi' — which has been named after Sultan Qabus — and the Jordanian Aqaba port.

Mubarak Delivers Speech

NC251254 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Address by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the port of Nuwaybi' at a ceremony inaugurating the establishment of a maritime route between Nuwaybi' and Aqaba, Jordan — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate.

Your Majesty and my dear brother King Husayn ibn Talal, Your Majesty and my dear brother Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and dear brothers and sisters: I welcome you from the bottom of my heart to your own good land, which is the land of every Arab and of defenders of freedom everywhere. [Applause] I welcome you with brotherly affection. You are among your own people. We are all sons of the Arab land. We are one family and one nation, and ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind [Koranic verse].

I welcome you on this happy day, when the Arab will is being united to accomplish positive action that will consolidate our ties, strengthen our noble feelings, and close the distances between the sons of the one Arab nation. I welcome you with feelings of admiration and pride to the land of the immortal Sinai, the seat of the sacred Tuwa Valley, which God mentions in his holy book its pure sands have mingled with the blood of our pious martyrs and are mingling today with the sweat of the toiling sons of Egypt — workers, peasants, and shepherds. It is as though the tall trees of the Sinai are being irrigated by that innocent blood and those pure drops of perspiration. There is no struggle that is more honorable. No nation can be more dear to God than one with such character and such a way of life.

The facets of building and reconstruction that we have seen in the land of Sinai yesterday and today provides the world with a magnificent view of the cultural and spiritual aspects of Arab steadfastness. They are living proof of the ability of our glorious nation to confront the most difficult challenges and the most serious responsibilities, with full faith in God, self-confidence, adherence to what is right, and hope in the future.

The young shoulders that carried weapons in defense of our land and honor are the same shoulders that are now building life, spreading civilization in this dear part of the Arab land, and planting the trees of freedom, in order to tell coming generations the tale of the heroism of a people and the greatness of a nation.

What we see in Sinai these days is the fruit of the continuous struggle and great sacrifice of our people, who gave their lives, staples, and blood and who devoted all of their energy. It is a great honor for us that two Arab leaders are participating with us in this celebration of the liberation and construction of Sinai and the inauguration of the new maritime route between Egypt and Jordan. The Arab people in Egypt view these two leaders with the utmost esteem and appreciation. [Applause] The Arab

people in Egypt also look forward to deepening the close and special relations with these leaders' fraternal countries, within the framework of comprehensive Arab unity and genuine Arab solidarity.

The presence of His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus in Sinai on this triumphant day carries an import that cannot go unnoticed by the masses of the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people view their brothers in the Sultanate of Oman and in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with love, esteem, and faithfulness.

We ask God Almighty to guide our steps on and double our faith in the pan-Arab march until the desired goals, upon the importance and originality of which we all agree, are achieved. These goals are the pillars of our ongoing life and of our common fate. If God helps you, none can overcome you [Koranic verse]. May God grant us all success. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [Applause]

Mubarak Attends Tripartite Meeting in Aqaba
NC252148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2147 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Aqaba at 2330 today.

President Mubarak said on his return that the tripartite summit meeting held today dealt with all of the region's current issues, including the Middle East issue. Views were exchanged on this problem and on means of providing an impetus to the peace process. He added: We also discussed the issue of creating a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and the problems in this context. We dealt with the Iraqi-Iranian issue as well, exchanging a number of views on that situation. We also discussed the Lebanese war, the situation and conflicts inside Lebanon, and Israel's withdrawal from that country.

President Mubarak continued: The tripartite summit was extremely good; we discussed all regional and bilateral issues.

He added: I would like to make it clear that the tripartite meeting was not held on the basis of an alliance. We are not supporters of such things. As for he who tries to describe this meeting as a new alliance, I would say that he has nothing to say about any fraternal Arab meeting, and hence must plant unpleasant seeds in an effort to detract from such meetings. The president stressed that he welcomes any meeting with any Arab country. He also stressed: We are not supporters of alliances, and I would ask anyone who thinks of alliances: Alliances against whom? We absolutely refuse to create an alliance against any Arab country. Our policies are clear. Our exchanges are clear. We mean what we say, and there is nothing more to say about this issue.

President Mubarak said that His Majesty Sultan Qabus will visit Cairo on Saturday to continue the talks, as there are bilateral issues that remain to be discussed. He added: I believe that I also will meet with Jordan's King Husayn prior to his departure for the United States at the end of May, to review the subjects that he will discuss during his U.S. visit.

President Husni Mubarak stressed the importance of the new maritime route between Nuwaybi' and Aqaba and its role in strengthening the relations between the Egyptian and Jordanian people, and between the Egyptian people and the Arab people in general: in Jordan and Iraq, and in the future, in Syria, God willing, as well as in the Gulf and many other countries.

He added: We have agreements with Sultan Qabus intended to strengthen bilateral relations. We are proceeding along this road with Sultan Qabus. We have agreements with His Majesty King Husayn. The Egyptian prime minister was there only 3 days ago. There are agreements between the two countires on trade cooperation and on cooperation in various other fields. The new ferry service has given us a very good opportunity in that respect.

Mubarak Interviewed on Mideast Peace Process
NC251859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Muscat, 25 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement represents a major step in the Middle East peace process. He said the purpose of his proposal to send a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the United States is to implement that agreement. This will prevent it from becoming mere words on paper. These remarks were made in an interview that President Mubarak granted to the Omani newspaper *'UMAN*. The interview was published today. The following is the text of his interview:

'UMAN: Mr President, how do you view the results of your trip to the United States, given the fact that the Arab world pinned its hopes on that visit?

Mubarak: Before my visit to the United States, we made painstaking efforts in cooperation with my brother, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Our efforts dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Praise be to God, His Majesty King Husayn, our Palestinian brothers, and the PLO concluded the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Inevitably, that will lead to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Obviously, the Palestinian side of the delegation will include PLO members, as the PLO, in accordance with the Rabat summit conference, is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. One cannot ignore that sort of thing. Therefore, when Jordan and the Palestinians reached an agreement, we saw an opportunity to move. Without that agreement, we never would have been able to promote or reactivate the cause. This was particularly true after the major schism opened in the PLO after the Palestinians were evacuated from Lebanon and dispersed. Praise be to God, the Palestinians managed to reorder their ranks and convene the PNC. The PLO was revitalized and the agreement I mentioned was reached. This agreement is a major step in the peace process.

Consequently, it was incumbent upon us to implement this agreement. We had to come up with new ideas, as there is a Palestinian delegation, a peace issue, and a draft resolution on an international conference. Since we approved this draft resolution, our attention has been focused on holding a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue or a dialogue between the United States and

a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation after their agreement to establish a confederation. The agreement was reached by the two sides, it was not imposed on them. Thus, we pointed out the importance of a dialogue between the United States and this delegation.

During my visit to the United States, I insisted that the Palestinian delegation include PLO members. The whole world heard my various statements on this, particularly those made at the National Press Club, in Congress, and elsewhere. I received a great many messages from Americans who are convinced that the dialogue is useful. I believe we managed to get U.S. public opinion interested again. Israel has also begun to show some flexibility.

'UMAN: Does Your Excellency not believe that the Arab countries, particularly those that have good relations with the United States, can play a role in supporting your efforts by influencing or encouraging the U.S. Administration to hold such a dialgoue?

Mubarak: Actually, those who visited the United States, King Fahd and others, dealt with this issue. A large percentage of Americans are now convinced of this. Now we must know how to exploit it. We in Egypt have played our role and have contacted Israel for the sake of the cause.

We have regained our land, and only the Tabah issue remains to be solved. This question will also be solved, since it is not a major issue. Our current contacts with Israel are made solely on behalf of the Palestinian cause. I am sure you read about Israel's request to have a meeting arranged between Peres and me. I welcomed the idea, provided we reach a settlement on the Tabah issue. The Tabah issue should be referred to a commission for arbitration, and Israel should withdraw from Lebanon. Israel is now withdrawing.

Mubarak Views U.S.-PLO Talks, Mining of Red Sea

GF251740 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Apr (WAM) — In a statement to Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* published today in conjunction with the Omani newspaper *'UMAN*, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak described the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as a major and important step in the peace process. He said that Egyptian is interested in the holding of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue or a U.S. dialogue with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He noted that the Palestinians have succeeded in holding a dialogue with the East and the West, and the USSR. He remarked that such a dialogue with the United States is liable to pave the way for convening an international conference on the Palestinian issue. The Egyptian president disclosed that Egypt has made contacts with Syria on the Palestinian issue.

On the mining of the Red Sea, the Egyptian president said that his country will not be able to prevent terrorism by itself. He called on all countries to find joint solutions to put an end to such operations.

Burkina Faso Minister Arrives for Official Visit

NC260556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA) — Blaise Compaore, minister of state delegate to the Presidency of the Faso in charge of justice in the Republic of Burkina Faso, arrived in Cairo tonight for an official 1-week visit to Egypt. He was received at Cairo airport by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Blaise Compaore stated that he is carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from the president of Burkina Faso. He also praised bilateral relations.

Dr Ghali reported that talks on important African issues and existing bilateral relations will be held during this visit.

During his stay in Egypt, Blaise Compaore will meet with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the foreign minister; and Engineer Hasan Sidqi, the housing minister.

Liberian Deputy Foreign Minister Ends Visit

NC251639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA) — Liberia's deputy foreign minister, Christopher Minikon, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, he held talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials on strengthening bilateral economic and political relations.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Prisoner Exchange

JN252040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) — Iraq has stressed that the sound solution to the POW issue is the one that will be based on the idea of a complete exchange of all prisoners without any distinction. This was stated by a Foreign Ministry spokesman to INA this evening. He said the idea of a complete exchange of prisoners can take place in one of the following two ways:

The first way is that the exchange should be proportionate to the number of prisoners each of the two countries has, and the operation of exchanging prisoners should take place within a time limit not exceeding 6 months.

The second way is to exchange prisoners in stages to also be completed within a time limit not exceeding 6 months.

The spokesman said the prisoners would be exchanged in three stages. In the first stage, the sick, handicapped, old men, and children would be exchanged. In the second stage, prisoners who have been in captivity for more than 2 years would be exchanged. In the third and final stage, the other prisoners would be exchanged.

The spokesman made a comparison of the Iraqi method of exchanging prisoners and the method the Iranian regime has proposed, stressing that there is a great difference between the two as the Iranian regime seeks to transform the prisoner issue from a humanitarian issue into a political card it will use for bargaining in its war of aggression. The spokesman said that if the Iranian regime is really serious in its call for a settlement of the problem of the prisoners, then Iraq would like to reaffirm its determination to seek a solution to this problem in accordance with the method it had proposed in the UN Security Council and in line with the positive humanitarian spirit with which Iraq has been dealing with the issue of the prisoners since the beginning. The spokesman reiterated Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in this respect.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 1,815

JN251747 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Communique No 1,815 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 April 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces are defending the homeland and the people's achievements with determination, faith, and unique courage, placing the suspect Iranian rulers in an embarrassing situation before their people and before the world at large, exposing their expansionist designs and evil dreams, and reaffirming to the great Iraqi people that they have unlimited capabilities for striking the criminal enemy wherever it may be on the battlefield. The criminal Iranian rulers will receive more painful blows for their insistence on prolonging the war and the aggression.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and for today:

1. As an expression of our Armed Forces's ability to destroy the enemy's military machine and to prevent it from carrying out the aggression against our territory and people, a force belonging to our forward units in the East of Tigris operational sector thrust deep inside the enemy's front on 24 April 1984, and controlled one of the bridges the enemy units had erected. In accordance with a plan which was meticulously implemented, our force dismantled and towed 600 meters of the bridge, captured six Strella rocket launchers and quantities of military hardware and other equipment. The operation was carried out with artillery support from our courageous artillery men. All the members of the force returned safely to their positions.

2. In implementation of the great Iraqi people's determination to cut off the Iranian oil resources, our giant Air Force planes carried out a successful raid on two very large maritime targets near Khark Island at 1200 [0800 GMT] today. Having scored accurate hits, our planes returned safely to base. Congratulations to the heroic Air Force hawks on this splendid achievement. Proceed forward to new victories until the enemy submits to peace and to the just principles that our triumphant leader had defined.

3. The valiant hawks of the air continue their air raids against enemy positions, weapon emplacements, and military hardware, confirming by their able acts and their efficient performance the strength and impregnability of Iraq in defending its security and its sons' safety. The valiant hawks carried out 138 combat missions in the East of Basra and East of Tigris operational sectors until this evening, after which they returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. The hero knights of the helicopter gunships continued to tighten the noose on enemy units and to destroy enemy military hardware and troop concentrations in the East of Tigris operational sector. They dealt fierce blows to the enemy, inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment, and destroying 7 boats, 5 hideouts, 10 infantry positions, and several enemy troop concentrations. They returned with their planes safely, under God's protection.

5. Units belonging to our forward formations pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and military hardware in the East of Basra operational sector with artillery and mortar, killing 19, wounding many, and destroying 1 excavator, 1 hardware stockpile, 1 machinegun position, 1 mortar, and 1 vehicle.

6. One of our forward units pounded an enemy patrol that tried to approach its positions in the East of Tigris operational sector, forcing it to flee after inflicting on it losses in life. In another area of the same sector, three enemy troops were killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

7. One excavator, one large vehicle, and one infantry position were destroyed and three enemy troops were killed in the central and northern sectors of the battlefield.

8. Escaping the ruling regime in Iran, new groups of Iranian civilians and military, including Khomeyni Guards, sought refuge with our forward units on the battlefronts, and were safely evaucated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 April 1985

Baghdad Islamic Conference Adopts Resolutions
JN260838 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) — The second popular Islamic conference concluded its deliberations this evening. The conferees adopted a number of resolutions that expressed their profound responsibility toward the dire threats that the Islamic world is facing as a result of the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing the war. They voiced their opinion that Islamic religious leaders must say the truthful, decisive word. In their final speeches and proposals, the participants called for a firm stand in confronting the evildoers who insist on war and aggression and who reject international and Islamic peace calls to end the war by peaceful means. They also called for boycotting the aggressors economically, politically, and culturally .

The conference held the Iranian rulers responsible for the killing, shedding blood, squandering funds, destroying development projects, and weakening Islamic power. The conference called on the Islamic governments, peoples, organizations, trade unions, and societies to confront the Iranian rulers and to regard them as tyrants. The conferees stressed the need to politically, economically, militarily, and culturally boycott the unjust clique in Iran and to expose its corrupt ideological principles.

The conference, which is the second of its kind to discuss ending the war between Iraq and Iran, asked the Islamic governments to adopt clear, bold stands condemning the Iranian regime, which has rejected the rule of God and refused peace, to sever diplomatic relations with it, and to boycott it at international, Islamic, and regional forums. The conference, which was attended by more than 300 figures, demanded that the tyrant Khomeyniite regime be either expelled or suspended from international, Islamic, and regional organizations.

It also demanded that the Iranian regime's representatives should not be invited to participate in conferences and symposiums held by Islamic states and organizations, and should be replaced by representatives of the Islamic people. It called for exposing the Iranian regime's military cooperation and coordination with Zionism, and for explaining the threats this cooperation poses to Islamic and world peace. The conference called for condemning all the states, organizations, and indviduals who help the Iranian regime or extend material, military, or political assistance to it.

In the economic field, the conferees called for stopping trade dealings with Khomeyni's regime and ending all commercial relations with it. They demanded that the (? maritime) governments stop buying Iranian oil, since oil revenues are the greatest source enabling the Iranian regime to continue evil and aggression. They called for putting pressure on governments and companies to stop supplying the Khomeyni regime with military equipment, ammunition, and spare parts, and appealed to the Islamic states to cut off all means of communications with it, including post, telephone, and telegraphic connections.

On the cultural level, the conferees decided to prohibit cultural dealings with the Khomeyni regime such as receiving books and publications from Iran. They also decided to ask the Islamic states not to accept the Iranian students the Khomeyni regime nonimates for studies in these states, and to replace them with students nominated by free Iranians. The conference also demanded that the Iranian regime's representatives should not be invited to contribute toward any Islamic cultural plan and that they should be expelled from all the international, regional, and Islamic cultural organizations.

The conference appealed to the Islamic men of religion, writers, and intellectuals to denounce the Iranian regime by every available means, and to monitor the moves of those who deviate from Islamic consensus and destroy their cultural and ideological endeavors because of their threat to Islamm and Muslims and their allegiance to the tyrant Iranian clique. The conference also called for condemning and boycotting proven members of societies that work for the Khomeyni regime and promote its aggressive political ideals. It also called for boycotting those who spread clear propaganda in the Khomeyni regime's interest through the written word and speeches, and through press, radio, and television interviews, and those who have made any material or moral contributions to this regime or to any establishments connected with it.

The conferees asked the Iranian people to escalate their struggle against the Iranian ruling clique and to expose this clique's ideological principles, which threaten Islam by vilifying the Islamic faith and scandalizing Islamic leaders. They appealed to the Iranian men of religion who adhere to Islamic unity to carry out their legitimate duty of exposing the Khomeyni regime, its contradiction with the basic Islamic tenets, and its open deviation from Islamic teachings. They also called on them to enlighten the Islamic masses in Iran on the immense dangers that threaten their country and the Islamic world as a result of this regime's continuing domination of their resources, and to exert every effort to topple it.

The conferees strongly condemned the Iranian regime's crimes of killing Iraqi POW's and dismembering their bodies. They deplored the latest of these crimes, which occurred on 10 October 1984 when the Iranian regimes killed unarmed POW's in full view of Red Cross representatives. They demanded on immediate solution to the POW tragedy by a comprehensive exchange of prisoners. They also demanded that the Arab states implement the Joint Arab Defense Agreement to confront the Iranian regime's aggression. They demanded that the ICO apply the Islamic rulings on evildoers.

The conferees decided to consider 25 April of every year — which is the date these resolutions are issued — as Iraqi day, on which the Islamic world expresses its solidarity with and support for Iraq, and explains Iraq's bright role in defending the Islamic faith, history, heritage, and culture.

The conferees decided to form a follow-up committee that will have its headquarters in Baghdad. This committee will define plans, programs, and practical means for ensuring the implementation of the conference's resolutions and recommendations, and for following up the conference members' activities and work. The committee will meet once every 3 months at the invitation of its secretary general.

The committee has 17 members. The chairman will be Shaykh Dr Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi from Syria, and the general secretary will be Professor Dr Bashshar 'Awwas Ma'ruf from Iraq. The following are members: Shaykh Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Nimr from Egypt; Shaykh As'ad Madani From India; Muhammad Rida al-Majtahid from Pakistan; Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir Azad from Pakistan; Shaykh Muhammad Nasir al-'Ubudi from Saudi Arabia; Professor Dr al-Sayyid Musa al-Musawi from the United States; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz (al-Ibn) from Senegal; Shaykh Mustafa (Ambaki) from Senegal; Dr In'amullah Khan from Pakistan; Shaykh 'Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuddah from Syria; Shaykh 'Abd al-Baqi Jammu from Jordan; Shaykh 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd (Al-Samn) from Nigeria; Mawlana Muhammad 'Abd al-Mannan from Bangladesh; Dr Sayyid 'Aziz Basha from the United Kingdom; and Ahmad Bazi' al-Yasin from Kuwait.

Zambian Higher Education Minister Departs

JN251143 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) — Rajah Kunda, Zambian minister of higher education, left Baghdad today after a 5-day visit. The Zambian minister held talks with a number of Iraqi officials and led his country's side at the meeting of the Iraqi-Zambian joint committee, which resulted in the signing of a protocol on economic and technical cooperation.

Aqaba-Nuwaybi' Ferryboat Line Inaugurated

King Husayn's Address

JN251848 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Speech by King Husayn at a ceremony in Aqaba marking the inauguration of a sea bridge linking Aqaba with Nuwaybi', Egypt — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Majesty Brother Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, Your Excellency Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Honorable guests: It is a distinguished, unique day to meet at this moment on the beach of Aqaba in order to celebrate the construction of the Arab land bridge at its Jordanian end in the same fashion we celebrated it only a few hours ago at its Egyptian end. You are welcome in Jordan's seaport, which is proud that you are here among its people and under the shade of its palm trees. You are welcome in the name of the Jordanian people, who are sharing with me my great pleasure on this good Arab occasion and this good beginning of a permanent Jordanian-Egyptian link and a growing Arab contact, God willing.

Brethren, the inauguration of this project, which began in 1984, ends an epoch of suspension in the land links between Arab Asia and Arab Africa and is, at the same time, an inauguration of a new epoch of modern Arab history in which a land connection is resumed between the two flanks of the great Arab homeland so that the Arab people, goods, and commodities will flow in both directions and serve our nation's economic interests, strengthen its pan-Arab fabric, enhance its fraternal bonds, and contribute to the march of its inevitable integration and definite cohesion.

The coincidence of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id's visit to his second country, Jordan, with the date of the inauguration of this important Arab project, and his good gesture of coming to the celebration site to share with us our joy over this happy occasion are a spontaneous expression of a genuine pan-Arab pleasure at a large Arab accomplishment. Perhaps his majesty being with us — and he is the monarch of fraternal Oman, in the farthest point of the southeastern part of the Arab homeland — indicates the importance of this project when we remember that it has become possible for the first time for an Arab in Egypt to travel in a car to Casablanca — to the farthest part of the Arab Maghreb.

The land bridge between Aqaba and Nuwaybi' will not be an alternative to the historical land route across the land of Palestine. [Applause] Our overwhelming joy today over this great event will only increase our insistence on continuing the struggle and serious, persevering work to liberate the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip so that the Jordanian-Egyptian bridge will be in parallel to the Palestinian artery in the one Arab body. [Applause]

This bridge is being inaugurated on this blessed day that marks the anniversary of liberation of the Sinai from the Israeli occupation. [Applause] It goes without saying that this pan-Arab project could not have been achieved and the Arab people could not have crossed the barrier separating Arab Asia from Arab Africa if the brave Egyptian Army had not crossed the Suez Canal in October 1973. [Applause] May God have mercy upon all the martyrs of the crossing and all the righteous martyrs who fell for the sake of liberating the Arab territory. We extend to all the Egyptian and Jordanian officials, technicians, and workers who participated in the implementation of this project our gratitude and appreciation for their good performance and quick accomplishments.

I repeat my welcome to you and the people in your country, beseeching God to unite our nation for the sake of its well-being and harmony, and to guide us to what pleases Him. He is the best to guide and the best to help. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you. [Applause]

President Mubarak's Address

JN251859 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1654 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at a ceremony in Aqaba marking the inauguration of a sea bridge linking Aqaba with Nuwaybi', Egypt — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Majesty and my dear Brother King Husayn ibn Talal, Your Majesty and my dear Brother Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and my dear brothers, sons of the Arab nation: This is a great historic day in which we are meeting in this precious spot of Arab land to mark the beginning of a new phase in the life of our glorious nation, a phase that shortens distances between the Arab countries and removes the barriers that prevent direct contact between the masses of the nation. Thus, borders become channels for interaction and cohesion within the one big family and for coordinated collective action for the achievement of common interests and objectives.

This step, which has been taken by our one people in both countries with their firm sense of history and rare sense of national pride, entails great meaning and profound significance. This step opens the way for a new era that responds to the aspirations of the new generations of the sons of our one nation and faces up to the challenges. It is not a coincidence that this great event takes place at the same time as one of our great national days that was created by our brave Egyptian Armed Forces [applause], namely, the complete liberation of the sacred land of Sinai as a prelude to liberating all of the occupied Arab territories [applause] in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza. Thus, the liberation is linked to positive work on the path of real unity and solidarity that goes beyond slogans and outward appearances.

Brothers, we firmly believe that the interests of all the peoples of the Arab nation converge on guaranteeing Arab existence and strengthening the Arab nation's ability to defend its rights and holy places. This calls for joint action that surmounts differences, cleanses souls of regional tendencies and personal whims, and frees the minds from the narrow-minded view of personal and collective interests. Sincere efforts should be devoted to building

Arab power, with all its components and bases, and mobilizing Arab resources in order to face the increasing crucial challenges. At the same time, we believe that sound and united action must begin with realistic, calculated steps that depend on scientific planning and study, take into consideration all existing circumstances and conditions, ensure continued action to bring the peoples closer to one another and remove the barriers and obstacles so the great edifice can be built on a solid foundation that would enable it to remain steadfast against all possibilities. Other peoples' experiences have taught us that, in substance, unity is the fusion of interests and the facilitation of contacts and exchanges on all official and public levels. Therefore, we are very pleased and satisfied with the steps that have taken place over the past few months to facilitiate the movement of individuals and the exchange of goods and services between the sons of the two countries, and also with the agreements that have been concluded by the two countries to guarantee continued movement in this direction. We are fully aware of the fact that we still have to cover much more ground before we can reach the desired objectives. If the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt have taken the initiative in this objective pan-Arab work, its good repercussions will not stop at the borders of the two countries, but will extend to all parts of the Arab homeland. Therefore, we consider His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id's participation on this occasion as greatly significant, symbolizing the removal of the barrier that separated the Arab countries in the East and the Maghreb, and opening new vistas for deepening the link and cohesion between the sons of the one nation.

And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God streches out for you and be not divided among yourselves [Koranic verse]. May God grant us all success. Peace be upon you.

Husayn, Qabus, Mubarak Hold Talks in Aqaba

JN260605 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed their meetings at the Royal Palace in Aqaba last night.

The talks were interrupted by a working dinner hosted by His Majesty King Husayn in honor of his two great Arab guests. The talks between the three leaders dealt with joint relations among the three countries within the framework of Arab solidarity and unity.

Egyptian President Departs

JN260609 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Aqaba — His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president ofthe Arab Republic of Egypt, returned to Cairo last night after participating with His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, in inaugurating the Arab route between the Jordanian port of Aqaba and the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi'.

His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus saw off His Excellency President Mubarak at Aqaba International Airport

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Syrian Leader

NC252103 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] According to reports, President Amin al-Jumayyil received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. This followed the all-Islamic conference in the Syrian capital. The message dealt with the results of those meetings, and noted that their purpose was to overcome the ordeal in West Beirut, and to treat the questions of reconciliation and some of the measures needed to restore calm there. The message added that the outcome of the Damascus meetings was a giant step toward strengthening unity and bolstering the process of salvation in order to end Lebanon's tragedy. The message stressed the need to get the government actively involved through regular cabinet sessions .

'Political Circles' View Damascus Meeting Results

NC251320 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Today political circles pondered the effects of three important developments of recent hours: The situation in western Al-Biqa' and Jazzin in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal, the situation in West Beirut after the Damascus statement, and the situation in Sidon and its environs following the withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces.

On the Israeli withdrawal, observers drew attention to the Israeli forces' decision to hand Al-Baruk and Rashayya over to Junblatt's men yesterday, while Junblatt was meeting with President al-Asad in the Syrian capital. They said that this action seeks to delineate the boundaries of Junblatt's zone of influence on the eastern side.

In regard to the results of the Islamic meeting that was held in Damascus, political circles expressed surprise at the fact that the long statement that was issued did not mention legitimate authority and disregarded the existence of the Lebanese state in the portions dealing with West Beirut, the retraction of Karami's and Al-Huss' resignations, and the convocation of the cabinet. In addition, it was noted that the Christians have been excluded from the security committee that was created to maintain security in West Beirut; it has been limited to the Shi'ites, the Sunnis, and the Druze.

On the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal from the area of Sidon and the doubt that has been expressed by some about this initiative, it has become clear that the parties in the area of Sidon have neither the will nor the desire to consolidate coexistence and achieve reconciliation. Nevertheless, this will not prevent the Lebanese Forces from making positive unilateral decisions.

Karami Receives Members of Security Committee

NC252023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami held a meeting in his home this evening with the members of the security committee formed in Damascus yesterday. The committee includes Brigadier General 'Abd al-Halim Kanj, Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, Major Talal al-Ladhiqi, Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan Ghutmi, Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli, 'Ismat 'Ayn Trazi, Qabalan Qabalan, Munir al-Sayyad, and Salih al-Dik. Prime Minister Karami issued instructions to the members of the committee in light of what was agreed upon in Damascus yesterday. He also asked the committee to move quickly in order to consolidate security in West Beirut.

Each committee member is scheduled to give his opinion on the formulation of a plan of action and ways to begin implementing the Damascus agreement. These views will be discussed at a meeting slated to begin at 1700 tomorrow in Dar al-Fatwa. Once this is done, a date will be set to put the agreement into practice.

Al-Jumayyil Confers With French Minister Dumas

NC261231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has received Roland Dumas, French minister of external relations, who arrived at the presidential palace at 1230 today. He was accompanied by French Ambassador Ferdinand Wibaux. Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni joined the discussions later.

Lebanese Forces Call for General Strike 27 Apr

NC251812 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee after its meeting on 25 April — read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee has studied the situation in and around Sidon after the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal from that area. The committee has made the following decisions:

1. The Lebanese Forces have completed their withdrawal from the greater Sidon area. They evacuated their positions 48 hours ago.

2. As of this hour, the Lebanese Army continues to hesitate in assuming its responsibility to protect unarmed civilians and their property.

3. Some gunmen from the Palestinian organizations have attacked property and burned homes in Darb al-Sim. These attacks are continuing, and it is feared they will increase due to the security vacuum which the state has, thus far, decided not to fill.

4. In light of this unacceptable and impermissible situation, and given the Lebanese Government's failure to assume its responsibility to defend our people's rights and safety, the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee has decided to call a general strike on Saturday, 27 April. It calls on all organizations, officials, parties, and citizens to answer this call for the purpose of saving the Christian presence.

5. The Executive Committee calls on officials in Sidon, the most prominent of whom is Dr Nazih al-Bizri, to express their solidarity with its position to have the Lebanese Army deploy in and around Sidon. This will prevent sectarian fighting and avoid any separation along demographic lines. The details of the strike will be announced tomorrow.

Murabitun Leader Interviewed on Lebanon Situation
PM251511 Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22-28 Apr 85 pp 12-14

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Command Council of the Lebanese Al-Murabitun Independent Nasirite Movement, by Naji Dahir; date not given]

[Excerpts] The aim of the recent blow to Al-Murabitun was to facilitate the cantonization process. That was the first thing utterred by Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Command Council of the Al-Murabitun Independent Nasirite Movement, in our telephone interview with him. He said: "It seems that the Druze and the Shi'ites — that is the Shi'ites of Nabih Birri's Amal movement only — have used the excuses and pretexts of the Maronite grouping, or its canton project for which the Ja'Ja' movement was created, to set up their own cantons. We, as Sunnis, have rejected the cantons and will continue to do so, and we will frustrate their wishes."

Question: Whatever happened to the reconciliation between you and Walid Junblatt?

Answer: It was just a reconciliation, not a strategic and fateful alliance. What has happened is very serious, and Syria and Israel had a hand in it. It is no longer a local issue. What happened was quite amazing. Nabih Birri contacted me at 2300 (Tuesday night) and then flashed the news on television that he had contacted us. He spoke about our resolution, movement, and people and said that he had told the Syrians: "We can do nothing" unless you support us. Later, the Tatar cohorts came down from the mountains with their tanks and vehicles.

Question: After the reconciliation it was said in Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] circles that the PSP would side with Al-Murabitun in any clash, even if it were a clash with Amal.

That is true, but apparently some forces, including the PSP, are not their own masters.

Question: If Al-Murabitun is unable, Amal and the PSP are rejected, and the 6th Brigade stands accused of participating in the recent operation, who will maintain security in Beirut?

Answer: Ask the states concerned in the region, including Israel, what security formula will prevail in Beirut.

Question: You were invited, as a movement, to join the National Front, but you refused. It has been claimed that this refusal was one of the reasons why the attack was launched against you.

Answer: They wanted Al-Murabitun and me as its responsible official to be an insignificant part of the front and to implement the resolutions of those who attended the Lausanne conference.

I want to state here that I and Al-Murabitun do not just represent ourselves. We are a link in the big chain which represents the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic dimension of Beirut and Lebanon in general. There was a plan to entice us to join in any political work, provided our task was restricted to political work, while others benefited from the Israeli invasion and the various incursions to obtain arms, build up their strength, and play a political as well as a military role.

Question: Now, after the recent operation, you might again be asked to join the front and work under cover of it, bearing in mind that the front may now be in a position to strike at the pro-'Arafat Palestinians.

Answer: We will never submit to any pressure in any circumstances and we will never act as a bridge or as a cover for undermining the national and pan-Arab causes, or serve that end in our Islamic capacity in Beirut and Lebanon.

Question: The PSP and Amal have issued a statement saying that they have struck at forces which allowed the 'Arafat group's infiltration of Beirut and at reactionary pockets working as agents for the Deuxieme Bureau and the reactionary regimes. What is your answer?

Answer: That is nonsense and we reject it. A plan is being implemented. Now they have come up with this story about Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat]. What is this Abu 'Ammar phantom? What forces are these which want to fight Israel and claim to have kicked out the forces of the five powers but are still unable to tackle 'Arafat? That is nonsense. Furthermore, nobody is more against the Abu 'Ammar line than our movement and me personally. We distinguish between him and the Palestinian cause to which we are linked by a bond of alliance of destiny which will continue forever.

The pretext about Abu 'Ammar and his foilowers has lost all credibility. We have not heard of any wounded or martyred Palestinian. There was no need to hit us, anyway, because the Palestinian camps in Beirut are in the grip of the PSP and Amal, whose siege is more ferocious than that of the Zionist enemy or the regime's army. These forces are using Abu 'Ammar as a pretext to destroy the Palestinian cause. The next round will certainly be the liquidation of the Palestinian people's camps in Beirut or Sidon, in accordance with the timetable drawn up by the perpetrators of these designs.

Question: Is there any possibility of an expanded Sunni meeting to deal with the new situation?

Answer: We are ready to respond to any call for a serious meeting that would right the wrongs that have befallen Lebanon as a homeland, a united entity, and a pan-Arab dimension. We are willing to respond on the basis of a pan-Arab concept.

Question: Has the recent operation affected Al-Murabitun's military infrastructure?

Answer: Even Israel after the invasion was unable to harm the Al-Murabitun military infrastructure. That is because Al-Murabitun consists of young people who believe in God and whose roots are as deep as the land itself.

Question: Is Al-Murabitun's military role finished, and is there a political role for it to play?

Answer: On the contrary, as an ideological and revolutionary movement we believe in organized and politically oriented force as a means of playing our political role. We respect no political action not based on force, especially as we live in an era when the law of the jungle prevails and no right or cause is fulfilled unless backed by force.

Question: Some people maintain that the liquidation of Al-Murabitun would affect the Sunni sect and its role.

Answer: The reactions of the Islamic community in general and the Sunnis in particular show that to be the wrong analysis. The proof lies in what Prime Minister Karami, former Prime Minister al-Huss, the mufti, and Sa'id Sha'ban have said and what the masses will say. Wait for the volcano which will swallow up the schemers and anyone who insults Beirut, its people, honor, heritage, and religion.

Question: What does Al-Murabitun expect now: an Arab initiative?

Answer: We do not expect any intervention or move outside the framework of our institutions and manpower. We make the circumstances and we build the foundations of any move. We decide how to move and what role to play, and we decide what we represent and what our people and kinfolk expect of us.

Question: Do you not expect Syrian mediation?

Answer: We will not pursue mediation or bargain over our just and fateful causes. We can be patient for years to come.

Question: Will the recent blow affect Syrian-Libyan relation?

Answer: Relations between states do not concern us.

Question: I mean in relation to their support for certain sides in Lebanon.

Answer: That will naturally happen in time, but I cannot make any predictions. I do want to say on this occasion that the 1 September Libyan revolution honorably and sincerely adheres to its declaration that it considers itself to be in the same trench as the nationalist and revolutionary forces.

Question: What are your short-term expectations after the blow dealt to Al-Murabitun?

Answer: Some people see the crime which has been committed against Al-Murabitun and against Beirut as something casual. We believe that it was a strategic mistake, and those who committed it will pay a high price.

Question: It has been reported that pro-'Arafat Palestinians have fought alongside Al-Murabitun.

Answer: Where are the Palestinians? Are they ghosts who only appear when someone has a plot to implement and cries that the 'Arafat group is here? Let it be known that the 'Arafat line is opposed only by Al-Murabitun.

Reportage on Fighting, Cease-Fire in Beirut

300 Syrian Soldiers in Beir

JN251120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Nicosia, 25 Apr (INA) — Arrivals from Beirut today say that forces of the Syrian regime are currently stationed in Beirut under the name of the Al-Asad Battalion. Arrivals say that more than 300 Syrian soldiers, armed with heavy weapons, have arrived over the past 3 days and have opened two offices in the Al-Judaydah and Al-Fakihani areas of Beirut. Arrivals also say that 150 Palestinians had been sent to Syrian prisons after being arrested in West Beirut for supporting the PLO.

Fighting Intensifies; Casualties Reported

NC251436 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] West Beirut has been coming under artillery fire. According to unofficial security reports, shells fell on 'A'ishah Bakkar, Wadi Abu Jamil, and Burj al-Murr today. A shell struck the blacksmiths market in Wadi Abu Jamil, killing four people. A shell also fell on Al-Maqdisi Street, near the Fontana stores.

Intermittent fighting is taking place along the line running from Ra's al-Nab and Sodeco to the old commercial center. Rockets and automatic weapons are being used. Sniper fire is covering the main streets in Ra's al-Nab. The fighting has subsided at times and has picked up occasionally as well. Rockets are terrorizing the people — that is, if they don't hit them directly and cause casualties and damage.

According to our latest reports on the security situation in Beirut, the fighting has expanded and intensified. Sodeco, Primo, and the old commercial center are affected. A number of 50-caliber machineguns were used in the fighting. A rocket fell on Al-'Illiyah alley in 'A'ishah Bakkar; one woman was killed and two others were wounded. Security reports also state that Lebanese Army Sergeant 'Ali Wahbah has been martyred.

Lebanese Army Involved

NC251412 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The security situation along combat lines in the old commercial area was aggravated today when gunmen from various organizations used rockets to strike at Army positions on the outskirts of Al-Ashrafiyah and on the Damascus Road-(Al-Tubbiyah) combat line. Al-Tabaris, Sodeco, the Al-Nasirah

School, and Al-Yasu'iyah University have been the targets of heavy sniper fire since morning. The shooting is coming from positions held by gunmen in Ra's al-Nab, Al-Batun, and the Gaumont Palace. A number of RPG's were fired at Al-Shrafiyah and the area near Mansur Palace [the Chamber of Deputies building] this afternoon. This was accompanied by fighting between the Army and gunmen in Riyad al-Sulh, the Gaumont Palace, Sodeco, and Primo. The level of tension has been decreasing gradually. The Sodeco and Fu'ad Shihab Bridge crossing points remain closed to traffic between the two parts of the capital.

'Guarded Calm' After Cease-Fire

NC251927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The fighting that broke out along Beirut's combat lines this afternoon died down at 1730. This followed the conclusion of a cease-fire agreement by the members of the Security Committee. A guarded calm now prevails along the combat lines. This calm is occasionally broken by sniper fire along the old commerical center line.

Crossing Points Closed

NC260857 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Bursts of fire from various caliber weapons are taking place along the combat lines of the markets. The Igalle area has been coming under shelling from al-'Azariyah since 0930 today. The crossing points at the port, the ring, and Sodeco are closed, and using the al-Tayyunah and Mar Mikha'il crossing points is precarious. Therefore, the museum crossing point remains the only one open.

Ammunition, Palestinians Reportedly Enter Al-Biqa'

NC260645 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Security reports from Al-Biqa' indicate that trucks carrying ammunition have entered through Al-Masna', proceeded to the areas of Bayadir al-'Adas and Shtawrah, and unloaded the ammunition for the Amal movement and the followers of Junblatt.

The reports add that trucks carrying pro Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] Palestinians have also entered through Al-Masna'.

Reportage on Fighting in Sidon Surroundings

Lebanese Forces Withdrawal Statement

NC251533 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] An official on the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee has commented on the doubts that have been raised regarding his organization's withdrawal from Sidon and on the distortion of the seriousness of that withdrawal operation. The official made the following statement this morning:

1. The Executive Committee emphasizes that the decision announced by Dr Samir Ja'ja', chief of the General Staff, has been fully implemented. The Lebanese Forces' withdrawal has been carried out according to plan, and our group has no forces, regular or irregular, in or around Sidon.

2. The allegation that the Lebanese Forces conducted a partial withdrawal conflicts with the facts and with the principles and demands of military practice. The principles of military theory argue against a shortage of manpower in an isolated area. This sort of reduced strength could expose these scattered forces to attack.

3. The Executive Committee asks officials in Sidon and those of the Lebanese state, as well as anyone else who doubts that the Lebanese Forces have withdrwan completely, to tour the areas bordering Sidon in order to determine the true situation. These officials are also asked to reassure the people there by controlling the extremists and the Palestinians, and by deploying the Lebanese Army to maintain security and safeguard our citizens.

4. In light of the above, the Executive Committee requests that an observers committee, supervised by the Lebanese state, be formed to guarantee that a complete withdrawal has been carried out. It also calls on the members of the Central Security Arrangements Committee to visit Sidon and its suburbs and to announce their findings.

5. The Executive Committee repeats its urgent request to the Lebanese state to assume its full military, security, administrative, social, and humanitarian responsibilities. It does so because it is the state which bears the burden of attacks on people or property.

Militia Prevent Army Deployment

NC251745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon reports that heavy fighting is going on in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah.

We have been told that 1 person was killed and 16 others wounded in today's fighting in the Sidon area.

According to security reports, gunmen entered the village of Darb al-Sim, near Sidon, this afternoon. This followed heavy fighting at 1315 today between gunmen and members of the Lebanese Forces. One person was killed and four others were wounded in that fighting.

Earlier, sniper fire directed at Sidon's streets left two people wounded. They were taken to the hospital for treatment.

A guarded calm, interrupted by occasional shots, continues to prevail in Al-Qayya'ah, 'Abra, and the area near Al-Miyah Wa Miyah. According to reports received in Sidon, militias in these places are continuing to fortify their positions and to build

bunkers. This is particularly true in 'Abra and Al-Hilaliyah. A member of the Al-Bubbu family was wounded by militia fire on the Darb al-Sim Road.

The Army's deployment in 'Abra, Al-Hilaliyah, and Al-Qayya'ah could not be completed due to the continued presence of armed militiamen.

'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp Shelled

NC251931 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] According to the latest reports from Sidon, the shelling of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp resumed at 1830 and then stopped at 1900. At that point, the camp came under heavy sniper fire from positions held by the Lebanese Forces in 'Abra and Al-Hilaliyah.

Army Deploys in Darb al-Sim

NC252041 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] According to military sources, the Army Command took immediate action to deal with the unfortunate situation that arose in Darb al-Sim this afternoon. Gunmen entered the village and burned its houses. The sources added that Army units have been deployed at strategic points on the approaches and along the Maghdushah Road. This was done in an attempt to contain what happened.

The president of the republic followed up the implementation of these measures by units of the 32d Battalion. Leaders in Sidon have criticized what happened in Darb al-Sim, and have expressed support for the measures taken by the Army in the area.

Druze Radio Reports Clashes

NC260709 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon this morning reported that clashes in the region had continued throughout the night. The national forces made considerable advances, reaching as far as the township of Majdalyun. These forces earlier had purged al-Qayya'ah al-Wusta, Al-Qayya'ah al-Fawqah, al-Qanayah, al-Hilaliyah, and 'Abra. The people forced out of these villages have begun returning to check their houses in the 'Abra area.

The Lebanese Forces aggravated the security situation yesterday. Clashes occurred in the areas of (al-Sirubiyah) and Darb al-Sim hills. The national forces managed to break the encirclement of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp east of Sidon and take up new positions, after having liberated the Darb al-Sim township adjacent to the camp from Phalangist forces. These forces continued their advance up to the approaches to Maghdushah town.

Two Christian Strongholds Attacked

NC260827 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Sidon, southern Lebanon, April 26 [AFP] — Moslem forces overran two Christian strongholds in hills east of Sidon early today but fierce artillery duels continued for control of a third Christian position at 'Abra.

Members of the Lebanese Forces — A Christian militia umbrella organisation — were putting up strong resistance at 'Abra although the Moslems were reported to have captured Christian headquarters in the village school.

A Christian source told AFP that six Christian fighters had been captured.

The Moslem decision to storm the three Christian hills of al-Bramiyah, al-Hilal'yah and 'Abra followed the withdrawal on Tuesday of elite Christian troops who came to Sidon a month ago to join in an uprising against the pro-Syrian policies of President Amin al-Jumayyil.

The withdrawal left a mere handful of men to defend villages in the predominantly Christian territory between Sidon and the mountain city of Jazzin.

Earlier today Palestinians and Lebanese Moslem forces were reported to have stormed three other villages defended by the Christians at al-Miyah Wa Miyah, Darb al-Sim, and Al-Qayya'ah.

The Shi'ite Amal movement has meanwhile set up barricades to prevent Palestinians from Sidon refugee camps moving into the nearby Christian village of Metulla, according to reports.

Maghdushah 'Surrounded'

NC261012 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the township of Maghdushah has been surrounded since last night. Efforts by the township's people and functionaries to communicate with the Army have been in vain. An appeal for help was made by the Abu Farhat family to the Army to deploy in the township's environs and at its approaches, as the siege is being tightened. Even now the appeal remains unheeded by the Army.

Personalities from Maghdushah have gotten in touch with inhabitants of Sidon in order to bring what is taking place to an end. At the same time, Bishop Ibrahim al-Hilu and Deputy Nazih al-Bizri got in touch with the Army's Southern Command, urging it to intervene and put an end to the continuing practices. However, this command, as usual, evaded its responsibility.

It should be noted that Maghdushah, where 8,000 people, mostly women and children, live, is suffering from bad conditions in terms of supplies and health. The Palestinians are surrounding the township from its western approach on the side of Sidon. Shi'ite concentrations have been seen on the eastern approach from the side of 'Anqun.

The latest reports from the south indicate that Palestinians and Islamic groups are present on the approaches to Majdalyun township.

Lebanese Forces Members Captured

NC261044 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Phalangist forces are continuing their aggression by directing sniper fire at various axes in Beirut. Six heavy artillery shells fell on Khaldah area at 1030 today.

Bursts of gunfire are being heard in the liberated areas of Sidon's environs, where intermittent shells are falling. This fire is being directed from positions belonging to the Lebanese Forces in the vicinity of the welfare home in Al-Salihiyah. During the battles, the national forces captured four members of the Lebanese Forces and confiscated large quantities of Israeli-made weapons and ammunition.

Policemen of the Popular Liberation Army — the forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd — have taken up positions along the roads leading to the liberated areas. They also have transported many Christian families to Sidon in order to prevent any attacks against them.

Army Battalion Accused of Attack

NC261120 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Security reports from the south indicate that approximately 60,000 evacuees from townships extending from Al-Qayya'ah to Kafr Falus were forced to move to the Jazzin areas by foreign and local gunmen. The reports add that these evacuees required relief and shelter, particularly medical attention, as there were wounded people among them.

Other security reports indicate that some members of the Lebanese Army's 98 Battalion participated in yesterday's barbaric attack against the Christian villages neighboring Sidon. These Army members drove the APC's and tanks which preceded the attackers, who were on foot and who came to these villages from the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps. The Palestinians entered the Christian cities and villages and began burning churches, municipal centers, clinics, and charitable societies. They then proceeded to the houses, looting, destroying, and burning them.

Amal Said To Control Maghdushah

NC261242 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] The Amal movement has consolidated its control over Maghdushah township and over the 'Ayn al-Dilb-Jinsnaya-Kafr Hatta axis. Members of the movement also have confiscated the weapons from gunmen there. Amal deployed patrols to safeguard the citizens and to prevent any violation of their dignity or property. Members of Amal told the inhabitants to be assured of their security.

In another development pertaining to a resolution of the military situation around Sidon, the towns of Al-Qayya'ah, al-Hilaliyah, 'Abra, al-Bramiyah, and Majdalyun have finally been brought under control after having been purged of gunmen. The forces [not further identified] also have reached the outskirts of al-Salihiyah. They erected a roadblock in Majdalyun. Earlier, Lahd men were in control of this roadblock. Other roadblocks are being set up to control the security situation and to prevent thefts and attacks against citizens.

Al-Shar' Meets With Lebanese Party Officials

JN251432 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1315 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received brother 'Isam al-Mahayiri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, and brother In'am Ra'd, director of public relations in the party, in Damascus today. During the meeting, the talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena.

PFLP Claims 18 Apr Gaza Attack on Israelis

JN211907 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 21 Apr 85

[From the "Palestine broadcast" feature]

[Text] In occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian resistance men continued their heroic operations against the Zionist occupation forces. The PFLP has claimed responsibility for the daring fedayeen operation that the martyr Givara Gaza group, working inside the occupied homeland, carried out last Thursday evening [18 Apr] against Zionist military intelligence officers and soldiers at the restaurant they were visiting in the middle of the city of Gaza.

In a statement issued yesterday, a PFLP Political Bureau spokesman affirmed that the operation, in which the group used machineguns and hand grenades, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy forces, which tried, as usual, to play down their losses. The enemy admitted that one soldier was killed, and another wounded. The PFLP statement said that Comrade Martyr Fathi Muhammad al-'Izbawi fell during this operations. The occupation forces immediately cordoned off and combed the region to search for the resistance heroes. They also blew up martyr Fathi al-'Izbawi's house on the same day, and arrested a large number of our people's sons.

In reply to these terrorist measures, our masses in the central camps, particularly in Al-Burayj Camp, staged enormous demonstrations that led to violent clashes with the occupation forces, who fired indiscriminately at the demonstrators. This resulted in the martyrdom of 'Isa Muhammad 'Isa, a youth, and the wounding of 'Abd al-Hafiz Judih.

In its statement, the PFLP warned the Zionist enemy authorities against continuing their terrorist practices and measures against our people's sons. The PFLP pledged to the martyrs and masses to continue its operations and painful blows against the Zionist enemy's forces until the objectives for which the revolution erupted are achieved.

AL-THAWRAH, TISHRIN View Lebanese-Syrian Talks

JN250931 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0345 GMT 25 Apr 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* deals with the important results of the expanded meeting held in Damascus during the last two days between Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Lebanese officials, politicians, and religious men. The paper explains that the statement issued after this meeting affirms that all participants realize the importance and need for providing security and reassurance to all Lebanese people. It also affirms their realization of the need for a unified security plan to achieve this objective, because it is a national task arising from eagerness for Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. This objective also arises from the need to concentrate all sincere efforts in order to liberate all Lebanese territories from the Israeli occupiers.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that Syria, which has extended all forms of support and backing to the Lebanese people and Lebanese national resistance, will continue to pursue its fraternal pan- Arab role in the Lebanese arena. This is because Syria has a firm and complete conviction that national accord is the right path to build a new Lebanon and to enable Lebanon to practice its natural role in the region. The Damascus meeting comes within this framework to show that Syria is ready to extend every possible assistance to the Lebanese people in order to overcome the current difficulties and implement the national tasks presented before them, foremost being the liberation of the Lebanese territories from the Israeli occupation.

The newspaper *TISHRIN* refers to the same subject. It says that the decisions agreed on by the parties in Damascus constitute a serious attempt to save Beirut from collapse, a necessary step to prevent Lebanon's collapse and, consequently, to continue liberating the rest of Lebanon's territories. The Damascus conferees heard from the Syrian leader and people an assertion to continue extending every possible support for Lebanon — a support that will contribute to liberating the territories and continuing the national accord march. The paper adds: The Lebanese people should pull themselves together and roll up their sleeves in order to implement the decisions that were agreed on and to enable Syria to continue its vanguard role in supporting Lebanon, especially since the Lebanese people themselves play the first and ultimate role. It is hoped that the decisions, adopted in this instance, will be implemented, especially since the Lebanese national resistance blows have forced Israel to accelerate its withdrawal. This has provided a suitable atmosphere for continuing the march of salvation, liberation, and accord, and, consequently for exposing and encircling all the schemes and their tools.

AL-THAWRAH Examines Aqaba Tripartite Summit

JN260706 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0345 GMT 26 Apr 85

[From the press review]

[Text] On the capitulationist Aqaba summit held by Mubrak, Husayn, and Qabus, and which was attended by representatives of 'Arafat, Saddam, and the Somali regime, *AL-THAWRAH* newspaper says: The most surprising thing in these people's behavior is that, although they are certain they will not be able to reap any benefits worth mentioning as a result of their moves, they continue to prostrate themselves before the U.S. and Zionist doors in the hope that they will gain some small crumbs, which would not alleviate their hunger.

This is because the United States ignored their ideas and proposals on many occasions, and never gave them a moment's notice. This is what happened to the well known Mubarak initiative. As for Israel, it does not fail to reiterate its determination to keep the occupied Arab territories, to continue expansion and establishment of settlements, and to reject all forms of abandoning the annexation of Jerusalem. Furthermore, Israel has announced more than once that any negotiations will only result in granting Palestinian autonomy.

In view of these facts, those who are running after the illusions of U.S. solutions must realize that they are proceeding on a path that leads to a dead end, and that they are haphazardly making themselves as lowly slaves in serving the aims of the expansionist Israeli policy, which is threatening the Arab land and existence.

AL-BA'TH Comments on Murphy's Mideast Tour
JN250942 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0345 GMT 25 Apr 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Murphy's Tour and the Harvest of Illusions," the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* says: It is not the first time the Arab region faces pressure, threats, and blackmail when a U.S. envoy arrives in it. Everyone remembers when Israel shelled and destroyed Lebanon and exerted all forms of pressure whenever Philip Habib arrived in the region. The same methods are repeated with the tours of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy. Therefore, there is no need to ask: What has Murphy brought with him? What has changed in the U.S. position?

The paper wonders: Is the issue one of various U.S. envoys coming to explore intentions, to collect information, and find out facts? If this is the issue, then several U.S. envoys have been on this mission before and during Reagan's first term in office. Reagan himself presented proposals that were not accepted. We called on the Arabs to present their proposals which could be used as a basis for discussion. The Arabs actually presented their plan, represented by the Fes summit resolutions. But what was the result?

The paper concludes: The fact that must be known to everyone is that any solution, whether agreed on by one or more Arab rulers or politicians, cannot succeed in this region if it contradicts and defies the Arab masses' feelings. As leader Al-Asad affirmed, any move that does not take into account the Arab masses' feelings will face obstacles and will only reap illusions.

Peres, Rabin Grant Independence Day Interviews

Peres on Economy, U.S. Ties

TA251840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on 23 April on the occasion of Independence Day; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts][Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, the Cabinet decided on the last stage of the withdrawal from Lebanon, but three former defense minsiters voted against this decision, each for his own reasons. One former defense minister, the present prime minister, supported this, and the question is whether we are indeed getting out of Lebanon.

[Peres] I would define the Cabinet's decision as a far- reaching one, even as a decision that carries historic significance. It is true that 3 ministers voted against it, but 18 voted for it. This means we regained a national consensus on a key security issue after a very long period. I would like to note another thing. This is one of the important cases that the government determined according to a specific plan and specific dates; it has implemented all its moves accordingly.

[Schiffer] How about the meaning of this in the area itself? The surveillance activity discussed — does this in effect mean remaining on southern Lebanese territory? Is there a danger, as pointed to also by experts in the defense establishment, that this may again entangle Israel in Lebanon?

[Peres] What does entangle mean? We can make a decision for ourselves. I am sometimes surprised at our talent for painting ourselves with incorrect colors. We struck a peace agreement with the Lebanese. As an independent state, Lebanon decided to grant Israel the right of surveillance on its southern border, in its southern part. Has anybody viewed this as the violation of sovereignty? We had a good fence on our joint border between 1976 and 1982. Has anyone viewed this as intervention in Lebanese affairs?

Let me categorically state the following: The government decided that we deploy along the international border. Second, it decided that the IDF not be present on Lebanese soil regularly. Now, as for the issue of patrols and surveillance activity, we have in fact given Lebanon, that is its communities — the Shi'ites, Christians, and others — a choice. We tell them: Do you want neighborly relations and no Israeli military presence? Then, please, maintain quiet and security; otherwise, it is our duty to defend ourselves. In other words, if we are again to have a good fence, if we are to have a security zone, this totally depends on the Lebanese. I would like to add another sentence or two: We are always accused of having an appetite for land and water, and this is why we are not withdrawing. We are a country with a military power that enables us to remain on Lebanese territory and on the land of Sinai. We totally evacuated the Sinai, and this is what we are currently doing in Lebanon. It is not the land that interests us; we are prepared to give it up. It is security that interests and concerns us; we cannot give this up.

[Schiffer] Do you believe it is impossible to defend the northern Israeli residents without a security zone where IDF surveillance activity will go on?

[Peres] I am not saying this. I am saying that if security exists, there is no need for surveillance activity. Let us see what the Lebanese can do. If their internal conflicts and problems affect our settlements, what choice will we have left? However, as a statement [last word in English], we have spoken unequivocally. I would greatly regret any Israelis trying to distort things. We are leaving Lebanon, evacuating its land, and have no interest in intervening in its policy. If the Lebanese keep the border quiet, there will be no problems and security will be maintained.

[Schiffer] One of the issues that arose in the wake of this war was our relations with the Palestinians. It seems to me that everybody today agrees that both Israel and the Palestinians reached the conclusion that it is impossible to settle this issue through force and we should start a dialogue. Are you today prepared to begin to talk with the Palestinians?

[Peres] This goes beyond the shadow of a doubt; this applied yesterday, it applies today, and it will apply tomorrow and always. As you correctly said, this issue should be resolved by means of a dialogue. To be completely sincere, I do not believe it can be resolved in one move, but I do not believe its resolution can begin before a dialogue begins.

[Schiffer] Who will you talk with? Who are the Palestinians, Mr Prime Minister, with whom you will be prepared to talk in order to solve the Palestinian problem?

[Peres] Look, the Jordanians, the Egyptians, and the Palestinians are also now looking for representatives who are not PLO members, namely, they were impressed by our argument against the PLO. It is not as if we now find ourselves in a situation in which all Arabs say that if the PLO is not there, there is nobody to talk with. They say indeed that the PLO is the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people, but they also say: Let us think about the delegation; there may be representatives who are not PLO members.

Only 3 days ago a ship was seized carrying 28 terrorists to the Israeli shores. We were lucky; thanks to the Navy's ability, a disaster was prevented. Just imagine if we had set a meeting with 'Arafat for Saturday or Sunday evening, and this ship had arrived....

[Schiffer, interrupting] Maybe he would not have sent the ship if you had begun to talk with Yasir 'Arafat.

[Peres] We are not sending ships against him, are we? We also say we are willing to talk with the Palestinians. It is 'Arafat who is sending ships against us. He has not even said yet he is prepared to talk with us; he is prepared to talk with the Americans. Is there a conflict between the United States and the Palestinians? Is there a conflict between the United States and Jordan? However, just imagine if this ship had reached the coast, and God forbid, the three terrorist acts — designed to force us to bargain with them — had succeeded? Would anybody then have sat with us around the negotiating table? It is impossible to have both terror

and a dialogue. Palestinian terror is not a reaction to Israeli terror, among other things.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, what is your solution to the Palestinian problem then? What are you proposing to them?

[Peres] At the first stage I am proposing a dialogue. I say: We have no agreement between us at the moment; we are not prepared to have what you want, nor do you want to have what we propose. When should there be a dialogue? This should occur when there is no agreement. When an agreement exists, talk is a waste of time. Is this the first conflict in history? How were conflicts resolved? Was this not through negotiations or a dialogue?

[Schiffer] What should be the contents of the dialogue?

[Peres] It seems to me that at this stage, taking into consideration the situation in Judaea and Samaria, the national election results, the existence of the national unity government, I would say we should start to talk about self-administration. They may demand other things; I am taking this into consideration. As a first stage, though, I propose that after we meet we first raise the self-administration issue.

[Schiffer] What then?

[Peres] I think we should propose self-administration for a transitional period, and this will be followed by additional dialogue.

[Schiffer] This is in fact the concept that Menahem Begin at the time proposed, autonomy for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. How, in fact, is your conception different from that represented by the Likud?

[Peres] First, let me remind you that the Camp David agreements were adopted by a majority Knesset vote. That majority was achieved just because we voted for it. There may be disagreements inside the parties rather than between the parties. Some within the Likud, just as within our camp, voted against the Camp David accords. Therefore, I admit that views are always divided along partisan lines. I do not know today who constitutes a majority in which party. In any event, on behalf of my party, I am confident that there is a massive and clear majority to continue the dialogue process, and to implement what we decided and have always urged to follow the Sinai evacuation, namely, self-administration for the Arabs in the territories.

[Schiffer] In you contacts with Egyptian Government leaders to date, do you believe your concept regarding the continued peace process in the region is acceptable to them?

[Peres] I would say the following: There are different opinions in Egypt too, or rather, there are different views at different times. My impression from recent talks with the Egyptians is that they do not insist on a Palestinian state. In fact, the Egyptians are today in favor of a federative solution, not between the Palestinians and Israel but between the Palestinians and Jordan. This is not what we would like to have, but this is not the PLO's opinion either. It is my impression that in the talks the Americans conducted with the Jordanians and the Palestinians too, they talked about the autonomy stage as the next desired stage.

[Schiffer] As for Israeli-Egyptian relations, it seems they are going to warm up. You are going to meet with President Mubarak. Do you have anything specific on this issue?

[Peres] To define the situation precisely I would say that after a period of a short circuit in relations — that is, the absence of a real dialogue — doors that had been previously locked have now been opened. I cannot say we have already reached a full agreement on the disputed issues. A peace agreement is not a marriage. When reference is to a marriage, you can talk of alimony demanded of the woman or the man. In this case we cannot demand alimony from anybody. We should address certain questions. Let us say we have just claims regarding the Egyptians — we should not, at the same time, forget that the Egyptians say they also have just claims regarding us — we still have an interest in cultivating bilateral relations, even if things are moving faster with Israel and slower with the Egyptians. What should be matched with what — our faster pace with the slower one, or the other way round, to accelerate the pace in any event? I am saying this is the first peace with an Arab country. For this peace we made very painful, far-reaching decisions. There are always changes occuring in Egypt. Egypt has its problems, its various interests and policies. We have an intrest in maintaining the peace, and I am not saying at all costs but rather at a proposed price.

[Schiffer] The offered price, this well-known political package deal — including the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, a summit meeting, the turning over of the Tabah conflict to arbitration, the opening of a dialogue between the two countries — in your assessment, can you get this price, this pacakge deal adopted by the government?

[Peres] I did not decide on this price; it was decided by previous governments. The consent to arbitration, not on its own indeed, was given by the previous governments. I am not inventing anything new on this.

[Schiffer] In your estimation, could you get this adopted in the present government?

[Peres] I would like to give you a responsible answer on this. I would not like to commit anybody, but my impression is that if we talk of an overall solution to the disputed issues, then the arbitration one too, as stipulated in the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, is a possibility on the agenda.

[Schiffer] Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali was quoted by the media as saying that you and President Mubarak will meet in the middle of next month. Is this the case indeed?

[Peres] I do not know of a date, but I would ideally prefer as early a date as possible.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, you talked about the serious economic situation, and many have asked themselves whether you — as a collective, as the government, or personally, as prime minister — have any economic line. There is a nearly total

national consensus on that, apart from the package deals which are a temporary panacea, the Cabinet has done nothing in the economic sphere. Recently, people have speculated that whatever will be done, will be done after the election to the Histadrut.

[Peres] I have no idea who it is that talks like this. Let me tell you what people want, but I do not, and what I want, but believe is not fully comprehended. People want us to find a classic solution. How do pundits normally rehabilitate an economy? By a large devaluation, for example, by substantial unemployment, by bringing the axe down on the head, so that the next morning you have a young, fresh, and exuberant man. You know, I have high regard for the experts, but I think that every man must also be an expert, and must think independently. I look at other countries, which purportedly have their own plan: take Spain, France, or England, for example. They really did it, and created large-scale unemployment. So I ask myself: Although they created unemployment, have they healed the economy? You know, in Spain there is 20 percent unemployment; in France the level stands at 12 or 14 percent, and the same holds true for England. Who are the people out of a job? The younger generation. Imagine that you or I have to heal the economy by telling a person who had just completed his military service that since we are healing the economy of this country, there is no place for him in the market, and he has no job. This is unacceptable to me.

[Schiffer] However, perhaps this is only a temporary situation which, unless you solve it, may take the overall predicament of the country much worse?

[Peres] That may be so, but I do not see this as a temporary state of affairs. Mrs Thatcher has been in power quite a few years already, so the situation is not that temporary, nor is there a solution in England to the problem of unemployment. Now let me tell you exactly what needs to be done to heal the economy, and some things must be done while exercising the utmost patience. What all the economists agree on is that there is a need to slash the state budget.

[Schiffer] Has this been done?

[Peres] We rolled up our sleeves, and decided to cut the state budget, and what did we find? We found a gap between the budget on paper and actual budget expenditures. We found that out last year, the state spent approximately $2 billion above and beyond what was written down on paper. However, the economy does not care about what is on paper; it only wants to know how much is being spent. We slashed between $1.5 billion to $2 billion of actual expenses, and this is something many people do not understand. I will furthermore tell you what we have slashed, so that my remarks do not remain vague: We have already cut $1 billion from subsidies, and I will give you the most real example, although I will cite it in figures. The budget included $700 million for subsidies, whereas in effect we spend $1.8 billion. Now we are talking about $700-$800 million in subsidies, but we are not through yet; we must slash another $200-$300 million from the subsidies. This is something everyone can examine, if he is not talking just for the sake of criticism, without checking the facts. Although the defense budget, on paper, is the same as last year's, the defense minister is carrying out real cuts, which are painful. So why look only at what is on paper all the time? Let people read about what is actually being implemented. What is being done is something that, believe me, hurts me too. I am talking about the defense sphere. The same holds true for the fields of health and education. So, we slashed $1.5 billion from the state budget; I know this is not enough, but together with my friends I am planning to make even further cuts, and this year we will slash the budget even more.

[Schiffer] The question is from where?

[Peres] I think we must slash the subsidies, and reduce expenditure in the services sector. I think we must introduce order into the sphere of housing. There are about 120,000 apartments built by 'Amidar and 'Amigur [construction companies] in which 1 million Jews reside, paying $3 a month. It is impossible to correct this wrong with a large bureaucratic administration. In other words, this is something that cannot be achieved overnight. We have done one thing — and I am not impressed by the criticism, although this is not to say that it is not legitimate. However, you must be guided by a certain line, exercise iron patience, and keep your eyes open wide. There is no doubt, however, that we have achieved one thing.

Second, it is necessary to control and limit imports and increase exports. In fact, if we had increased exports by 20 percent, and cut imports by 10 percent, we would have solved the country's problems. In these 2 years, in other words, the past year and this fiscal year, we will have achieved exports that are between 15 and 18 percent higher. That is because although we slashed subsidies on goods, we did not cut subsidies for exports. In addition to this, we are employing a whole range of means to increase exports — such as the task force [last two words in English] in the United States. It turns out that the problem of exports is not only a problem of production, but also involves marketing. If, for example, Marks and Encer purchases goods from us to the tune of $100 million — money that otherwise would have remained in Israel — what matters is not that you manufactured, but that you exported those goods. Now we are doing the same in the United States. We have signed the free trade zone agreement; we are gradually beginning to set up new sophisticated plants — in other words, we are working on the exports side.

Regarding imports, we have taken all sorts of administrative measures, such as implementing the levy on travel, otherwise known as the travel tax. What is the travel tax? After all, travel overseas can also be considered as imports, and we have spent $1 billion on this. We have also frozen business contracts and transactions; we have limited imports, and we are working in that direction as well.

[Schiffer] However, do you still oppose such conventional measures as a large devaluation, or unemployment?

[Peres] I certainly do. Furthermore, I think these measures do not help. I believe these measures could make people suffer, and no one would benefit.

The third step in the economic area that must be taken — the first being the state budget, the second being balancing the payments — is to tackle inflation. Either we overcome this

problem, or inflation will destroy us. When this government was established, the rate of inflation stood at 24.5 percent, and everyone agrees already that this year it will drop to half that rate. However, this is not enough; we will cut that figure in half again too. I predict that in the next few months we will achieve a single-digit inflation rate. This is what was gained through the package deals, because there is also a psychological factor affecting inflation; without a national consensus it is impossible to achieve that frame of mind.

The fourth thing that must be done is to resume growth and establish new industrial plants. So despite all the difficulties, the deficits, the [word indistinct], and security — despite all these, we have begun to set up new plants, and this trend will increase at full force.

[Schiffer] Nevertheless, our friends in the United States are not happy and, judging by all the voices emanating from Washington that we have heard, the emergency aid is not lying in our pocket, and the friendly advice given to us remains in effect. Do you not fear this dependence on the United States, and those deals that in actual fact say that if we fail to do this, we will have nothing more to do with them and will not get a penny?

[Peres] I am not afraid of the advise, but I am very much afraid of the dependence. Once you are independent, no advice will be handed to you, either. This is the honest truth. The advise, after all, is definitely against a friendly background.

Now I believe that if we proceed in an organized manner — and I am telling you that lots of reforms need to be effected, and one of the more outstanding ones that we must implement is to have 400,000 or 450,000 of the entire work force in Israel employed in production, and 400,000 working in the services sector. Why are you asked to pay high taxes? Because it is necessary to pay for a great deal of services. Why do we need help from the outside? Because our production cannot defray the rising costs of the services here. We must decrease the services and increase production. If we pursue the right course, I believe that in 2 or maybe 3 years, although we will not be totally free of this because when it comes to defense matters we will still need help, I believe firmly that economically it will be possible to reach a stage in which our dependence can be largely lessened, and that is impressive.

[Schiffer] Do you believe that in the end the United States will grant Israel the aid requested?

[Peres] I have no doubt about that. I have no doubt about that, and I have a written and verbal commitment about that from the President of the United States. In fact, the Americans are treating us well, telling us: Listen, you want to heal your economy? We are prepared to advise you about what to do. If you do not want our advice, tell us what you do want, what your criteria is. We honor your decision, but tell us what your indicators are. That is to say that these 10 points are not an imposition on us by the United States; they are actually 10 questions directed to Israel and following our policy.

Two days ago I answered these 10 questions in a letter to the secretary of state. I know that here, too, one must exercise consistency and infinite patience; after all, objectively speaking, the problems are very serious.

[Schiffer] Could you tell us what the essence of your response to Shultz is?

[Peres] In brief, my answer to Shultz is that we have a forecast regarding the rate of inflation for the duration of the package deal, and the forecast for the second quarter depends on whether or not we sign another package deal. I would prefer us to do that in the form of a national agreement, since I believe it is the most secure and the best way. After some time, in a few weeks, we will launch negotiatons with the Histadrut and the employers on an agreement reached of their own free will to curtail inflation. Then we will be able to inform the Americans that we are moving ahead.

[Schiffer] What is your prediction about the inflation rate in the near future?

[Peres] I personally have no forecast; I accept the treasury's prediction. I would like to say the following: I was told by the Treasury last month that the prediction is that the rate of inflation for the 1st month of the package deal will stand somewhere between 12 and 15 percent; and it actually stood at 13.1 percent. Then I was told that in the package deal's 2d month it would stand between 12 and 14 percent; and it stood at 12.1 percent. The prediction is that next month the rate of inflation will rise by between 9 and 11 percent; and that during the 4th month of the deal, if nothing extraordinary happens, the rate will stand between 4 and 6 percent.

[Schiffer] With your permission, let us go over the political price Israel should pay for this dependence on the United States. We were requested to aid with the star wars project. Israel was requested to erect transmitters....

[Peres, interrupting] Shim'on, Shim'on, how can you talk so? Will the United States not launch the star wars without us? Is it dependent on us indeed? Are we paying a price? What are you talking about? Let us keep some sense of proportion....

[Schiffer, interrupting] Maybe I will just finish my point. We were requested to set up VOA transmitters here, to allow broadcasts from here to East European countries. Can you today make free decisions, as a free prime minister, as a free head of state, without taking this dependence on the United States into consideration?

[Peres] I am also free of the remarks we make about ourselves, not only of remarks others make about us. Let us search our souls in a just manner now. Tell me, who is more dependent on the United States, Germany or Israel, France or Israel? I am saying France and Germany are more dependent on the United States than we are. I am talking of NATO, of the U.S. Army's defense of the European Continent, of continual, practical, strategic and political coordination, and the Americans are paying more. What should we be ashamed of?

Let us take a look at the so-called star wars project. What is the differnece between us and Europe here? Weinberger sent a

message to a number of European countries and to us. There is an enormous difference between his expectation of them and of us. He expects them to participate in the development of a new strategy in space. As for us, he is suggesting that we participate in a strategy of development. We are not going to fight the stars. There is an enormous scientific dimension to this. You know, it seems to me the United States will do this without us too. Let us not exaggerate things: The United States will do this without us, but how will we feel when we find that there is a stunning communications system, new ideas, and components in the world? We are not invited to the wars; we are invited to partake in a new scientific dimension. If you ask me, I have no doubt whatsoever that we must be part of this and know what is taking place. I have become accustomed to the fact that whenever there is something new, old experts rise in alarm.

Rabin on Terrorism, Syrian Acts

TA251543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Jerry Cheslow on 24 April, on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Cheslow] We are now seeing the PLO reentrenching in the refugee camps around Sidon, what has been called the kingdom of terror. Do you see it rebuilding itself, and will this kingdom eventually attack us once more?

[Rabin] I believe that as a result of the war in Lebanon, there is a good chance that the Shi'ites will not allow the restoration of a PLO state within the State of Lebanon. Look what happened in West Beirut. I believe that the behavior of the Shi'ites, supported by the Druze, is totally aimed at preventing any Palestinian or Sunni elements from becoming what the PLO used to be in Beirut, in southern Lebanon — the dominating factor. I assume, I am not too sure, I assume that the same will happen, in southern Lebanon, in the areas that will be vacated by us. If this happens, then the question will be to what extent the Shi'ites, or the leading party or group in the Shi'ites, the Amal, will be strong enough to impose its own will on the Palestinians in the camps between south of Tyre, Al-Rashidiyah, up to Sidon . It is still left open.

[Cheslow] Military planners within Israel, Mr Rabin, all expect some Syrian movement southward following the IDF withdrawal. How far south can Israel tolerate?

[Rabin] Well, it is too early to say what the Syrians will do. I tend to believe that Syria today would like to conduct a policy that, on the one hand, encourages and supports terror acts as long as we are in Lebanon, and might be even against targets in Israel, once we complete our redeployment along the international border. On the other hand, I believe that Syria will refrain from doing things that will bring about a direct military confrontation between itself and Israel. They might, here and there, move a little bit towards the south, but they know — and I will not elaborate on it — what might be intolerable to us.

[Cheslow] If as you say, Minister Rabin, the Syrians are openly encouraging strikes on Israeli forces by their proxies, is Israel's policy today, in essence, to allow Syria immunity for the time being, while its proxies strike at Israeli forces?

[Rabin] Well, I do not believe that the Syrians are totally immune. That is to say, whenever we find a target, a terrorist target, in the areas under their control, we will not hesitate to act. However, at the same time, as long as the Syrians themselves are not involved directly, I believe that we have to give great consideration to what to do, what not to do regarding Syria.

[Cheslow] Do you believe that the IDF's deterrent value has in anyway been decreased?

[Rabin] No, I do not believe so. I believe that the last encounter that we had with a regular Arab country took place between us and the Syrians in June 1982. Look, if in the dogfights between our planes and the Syrian planes the results were over 90-0 — that is to say that the Israeli Air Force, our pilots, shot down over 90 planes in air battles without losing even 1 — I am sure that the Syrians and the other Arab countries, and those who back them, know the meaning of it. If we showed our capability in eliminating ground-to-air missile systems, without losing one plane, somebody must register it. If our tanks were capable of coping with the most advanced tanks that the Soviet Union shipped to the Arab countries, to any Arab country, the T-72, somebody must register it too. Therefore, if they do not try to mislead themselves, they should know that the encounter between the Armed Forces of Syria, even on a limited scale, with the IDF in the air and on the ground, was such that the deterrence power of Israel and the IDF proved to be very effective. They can miscalculate but it would be a grave mistake on their part.

Mubarak Sends Independence Day Message to Herzog

TA251620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory message to President Hayim Herzog. He wrote that he is pleased to wish the president and the people of Israel the best on the occasion of the Israeli Independence Day. President Mubarak wrote that his country is determined to advance the peace process through cooperation with all the peoples who seek justice.

Egypt's Basyuni Views Preconditions for Summit

TA251727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Egypt will not agree to a summit meeting between Husni Mubarak and Shim'on Peres until Israel completes its withdrawal from Lebanon. This is according to the Egyptian charge d'affaires, Muhammad Basyuni, who attended the annual Independence Day reception for diplomats at the president's residence. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] The Egyptian charge d'affaires, Muhammad Basyuni, spelled out three preconditions for a Peres-Mubarak summit:

[Basyuni] A summit meeting, there was three preconditions to this meeting: First of all, full withdrawal from Lebanon; improving or taking special steps for the peace process, for comprehensive peace; and third point, to submit the Tabah problem to arbitration. So now we are waiting for these three things, and as soon as we can find these things resolved, the summit meeting will be held.

[Essing] Muhammad Basyuni also made clear that Egypt totally opposes any kind of Israeli presence in the security zone in south Lebanon after the total withdrawal. Basyuni said there should be no Israeli observation points or patrols inside south Lebanon.

[Basyuni] One thing is very important to us: Full withdrawal from Lebanon. Full withdrawal. We want full withdrawal, that Israel pull out completely from Lebanon, without any checkpoints, without any soldier, Israeli soldier, in security area. This is our view.

[Essing] Muhammad Basyuni brought a message from Egyptian leader Husni Mubarak to President Herozg. Mubarak conveyed his most friendly greetings on Israel's national holiday. Mubarak stressed his total determination to complete the Middle East peace process in cooperation with all states, and what he called those forces seeking peace and justice. [End recording]

Murphy Tells Peres No Results From Mideast Talks
TA261019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Richard Murphy has not achieved any results in his talks in the Arab capitals on the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This was said by the U.S. envoy in separate talks he held in Jerusalem today with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Murphy said he does not expect that an agreement will be achieved on this issue in his meeting with King Husayn tomorrow. As for Syria, Mr Murphy said that it has no interest in the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear to the U.S. envoy that Israel will make sure that no Palestinian who is linked with the PLO, either directly or indirectly, will participate in negotiations with us. Mr Shamir emphasized that the terrorists' boat that was sunk last week and the task it was supposed to carry out proved the PLO's intention to liquidate Israel.

Shamir, Levi View Settlement in Territories
TA251545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the summit meetings that are purported to solve the Middle East problems with a magic wand, as it were, are in fact intended to legitimize the PLO reptile and find a way to remove us from Judaea and Samaria. All those who seek imaginary political solutions should know they are toiling in vain. Minister Shamir was talking during the concluding rally of the march organized by Gush Emunim in the Qarne Shomron area.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said during the rally that, despite the budget cuts, the paving of the trans-Samaria road will be completed, and four new settlements will be set up in the area. He also promised that about 2,000 housing units will be built this year in the existing settlements in Samaria. No decision reducing the size of settlements in Eretz Yisra'el will be made, he said.

Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that tens of thousands of people participated in the march, including hundreds of the Ethiopian newcomers. Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin greeted the organizers of the march.

In contrast, the Peace Now movement condemned the march, stating that this is a political demonstration intended to foment spirits in the territories. Peace Now also states that the defense minster should be denounced for allowing the march and at the same time, banning similar demonstrations other elements wanted to stage. The movement's spokesman denies that the movement's members demonstrated against the march.

IDF Set To Evacuate Tyre Area 'Shortly'
TA251321 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The IDF will shortly evacuate the Tyre area also, thus completing its deployment in the security zone. It will remain on this line until 5 June, the date the government determined for deployment along the international border. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that if, during this time, there are no attempts to reorganize terrorist elements in the area and the Syrians do not advance their forces, the withdrawal will be completed on time.

So far the Syrian Army forces have not advanced toward the Al-Biqa' regions which the IDF evacuated yesterday. The area was seized by two battalions of the Lebanese Army. Jabal al-Baruk was seized by the Druze. It seems that these movements by the Lebanese Army and the Druze were approved by the Syrians.

Lebanese Druze Present Demands Following Withdrawal
TA251850 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Thousands of Druze from the Golan, the Galilee, and the Karmel area today made a pilgrimage to the gravesite of Al-Nabi Shu'ayb, otherwise known as Jethro, in Qarne Hittim. A small delegation from Hasbayya, in southern Lebanon, also arrived for the celebrations, and handed the Israeli Druze spiritual leader, Shaykh Amin Tarif, a list of demands for him to broach with the Israeli authorities following the withdrawal from Lebanon. This year the festivities were confined to prayers and religious ceremonies only. Only a few circles of dancers could be seen near the gravesite.

No officials arrived to congratulate the Druze. This year the Druze were divided: Some favored holding ceremonies without the participation of honorary guests, while others pressured for an invitation to government officials to lay before them the sect's

problems and the problem of relations with their kin in Lebanon. A large group arrived from the Golan Heights. Our correspondent notes that the Golan Druze have over the past few days been trying to raise again the issue of their Israeli citizenship.

Pro-Syrian Golan Druze Impose Boycott on Taxpayers
TA260605 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0525 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Pro-Syrian Druze in the Golan Heights have imposed a religious and social boycott on those inhabitants of the villages who pay taxes to the local authorities. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the appeal says that anyone who disobeys the order will be excommunicating himself from the sect as a whole. The initiators of the boycott claim that the heads of the local authorities have failed in fulfilling their duties, and pointed out that they were not elected by the residents, but rather were appointed 9 years ago by the Israeli Ministry of the Interior. One should note that the government invests hundreds of millions of shekels each month in the Druze villages on the Golan Heights, while the inhabitants' taxes hardly cover 10 percent of the outlays.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid's Washington Visit Reviewed

PM251332 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 23 Apr 85 p 12

[APS dispatch: "A Serious and Frank Exchange"]

[Text] San Francisco — One of the main objectives achieved by President Chadli Bendjedid's visit — and it is a considerable one — is, according to the Algerian observers who have followed the visit, that it has "broken down the wall" between the two countries.

In the view of many American officials encountered throughout the visit, this is probably the most important fact because, they say, Algeria's intentions have been judged at the highest level for what they are and not as insincere or ill-intentioned intermediaries have portrayed them hitherto.

Algeria expressed those positions with a frankness which was noted, without complacency, and with the assurance of those who have a clearly defined political line which they intend to maintain. The Americans for their part reaffirmed their traditional stances in their public statements.

On a strictly political level, therefore, dialogue was begun on a serious and frank exchange, and people point out that although "contact was made," this does not mean that there was complete agreement on all points, especially on major international problems.

Of course a significant step has been taken as regards the general approach to the situation in the region. The Algerians gained the impression that the facts were well known to their interlocutors. With regard to the Western Sahara, the Americans reaffirmed that they do not believe in a military solution to the conflict, that the people of this region should express themselves freely on their future, and that they would strive to work to maintain peace in the Maghreb. This is already considerable progess as regards their intentions, especially as formulated at the highest level. Consequently, we expect more balanced action by Washington in the future to really put into practice the inclinations it displayed.

It also expressed its desire to go further in the sphere of bilateral cooperation. From the start the Americans stressed that their trade with Algeria showed a deficit of around $3 million. In addition to some areas already explored in which cooperation has flourished, others are likely to be found, and this is precisely the task of the joint commission set up during this visit. But although the Algerians have no objection to the principle of trade balance, they rightly consider that it is up to them to draw up the list of products and services which they intend to buy.

These include the transfer of technology, especially in the sphere of agriculture. It has already been decided to give grants to around 15 Algerian scientists in this sphere. This is a symbolic gesture which should be followed by more substantial measures if it is desired that more agricultural products should enter Algeria — a phenomenon not encouraged by the level of the dollar.

In the international policy sphere, Algeria's principled independent position was clearly expressed. Major disagreements were noted on some questions, and mainly on the Near East. Although Algeria is not opposed in principle to any initiative aimed at finding a solution to the question, it nonetheless thinks that trying to disregard the Fes summit resolutions is bound to lead to failure.

The firmness with which President Chadli Bendjedid recalled this fact in Washington and especially the fact that he publicly and specifically mentioned "the right of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, to participate in any search for a solution" was a political event in itself, since such statements are not usually made by visitors because of the current administration's clear-cut position.

On other questions, especially world economic relations and the situation in Africa, Algeria expressed its convictions and tried to win support for its views on the need fo international solidarity on the eve of the rich countries' summit in Bonn.

On this point too the U.S. positions are certainly known, but this does not mean that any attempt at persuasion and dialogue is futile. Algeria's feeling, expressed several times by President Chadli Bendjedid during this visit, is that only dialogue — forwhich it is necessary to work constantly for improved conditions — is likely to achieve progress in the direction desired by the people. This will be the case provided neither sovereignty nor dignity suffer on either side.

LIBYA

French Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD260953 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Tripoli, Shaban 6, April 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — French Foreign Relations Minister Roland Dumas arrived here last night on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, accompanied by the director of North African Affairs at the French Foreign Ministry.

The French official made the following statement to JANA correspondent at Tripoli International Airport: I have visited Libya on several occasions before joining the Foreign Relations Ministry and have established personal and friendly relations. I've come back with happiness to Jamahiriyah as a minister of foreign relations. I had visited Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and made sure to visit your friendly country. I would like to address my warmest gratitude to leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on this visit during which my discussions will focus on international developments and issues of common interest as well as the existing co-operation between our countries and our peoples.

He also confirmed that relations between Libya and France are now developing, ever since the leader's meeting in Crete Island with French President Mitterrand.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi, Departs

NC260839 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Last night the brother leader of the revolution received Roland Dumas, French minister of external relations. The French minister of external relations left Tripoli this morning.

Further Reportage on Visit of Iranian Official

Confers With Foreign Minister

LD251829 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Apr (JANA) — The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning received the under secretary of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Sheykh ol-Eslam, and members of his delegation. During the meeting discussions covered bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war, and Islamic, Arab, and international issues of interest to both countries.

Foreign Liaison Official Meets Philippine Moro Leader

LD260253 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Shaban, 25 April, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau this afternoon received Nur Misuari, head of Moro Islamic Liberation Front fighting in south Philippines. The meeting focused on the latest developments in south Philippines. Miswari expressed the front's gratitude for the Jamahiriyah's support to the Muslims in south Philippines.

Tripoli Attacks Murphy's Tour, Shultz' Statements

LD260142 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] While American envoy Richard Murphy is visiting the Arab region, applying pressure for further concessions from the Arab right and capitulation to the Zionist enemy, American Secretary of State George Shultz, is firing off statements to assure the cowards and the scared, to drive them to the bottom of the dirty quagmire in which they have fallen, in the name of courage, moderation, practicality, being civilized, political gain — to the end of the list of justifications, excuses, and pretexts of downfall and defeatism.

Shultz says that America is prepared to protect those Arabs who would directly negotiate with what he calls Israel. But did America and all the intelligence machinery and the American security walls which used to encircle Al-Sadat actually protect Al-Sadat against the bullets of the valiant Egyptians? Did America, with all its resources and power, prevent the expulsion of Ja'far Numayri and his downfall and the revolution against his regime? Was Washington of any use to Haile Selassie or the shah of Iran, or Batista, or Lon Nol, or Somoza, or other agents?

Murphy's visit and Shultz' statements mean only one thing: further concessions, further squandering, further American hegemony and the imposition of the Zionist will over Arab wills. Will our masses, from whom the heroes emerged who buried Al-Sadat, accept American dictation and Zionist conditions? Will our masses, who blow themselves up in the convoys and the centers and the forces of the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon and force him to withdraw, accept the new plot? Will our masses in occupied Palestine remain silent about the plot of annihilating them and abolishing their homeland? Will all our Arab masses, from the ocean to the Gulf, accept America and the Zionist enemy to write down the final lines in the fate of the Arab nation, its future, its freedom and its honor?

We believe that the Arab masses, who do not forget the capitualionist deviationists and their crimes, have come to be completely aware and fully realize the bitterness of the sufferings of all the liquidating plans and the capitulationist plots. The masses alone are responsible for foiling all these plans and these plots, because they value life, freedom, unity, and progress.

Municipal Reelections Set Following Violations

LD260152 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] On the basis of the objections raised against the processes of election of the popular committees of the municipalitiesor. the ground that these elections were in violation of the conditions set by the basic popular conferences, and owing to the procedural errors that occured in the elections in many popular conferences in the municipalities, and in consolidation of the authority of the people who have in their hands the authority, wealth, and weapons, the Secretariat of the General People's Congress has decided to hold reelections in the following municipalities in accordance with the arrangements which have been conveyed to the popular conferences of the said municipalities. These municipalities are Tubruq, Darnah, Al-Jabal al-Akhdar, Al-Fatih, Al-Kufrah, Suq al-Jum'ah, Zuwaytin, Al-Khums, Al-Aziziyah, Tarhunah, Yafran, Ghiryan, and Al-Shati'.

The secretariat has fixed the dates for these reelections in accordance with the following timetable: the first group today, 25 April — Tubruq, Al-Shati', Ghiryan, Yafran, Al-Jabal al-Akhdar, and Tarhunah; and the second group tomorrow, 26 April — Darnah, Al-Aziziyah, Al-Fatih, Al-Khums, Suq al-Jum'ah, Zuwaytin, and Al-Kufrah.

SUDAN

TMC Delegation To Visit Ethiopia, Restore Ties

JN251722 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — In a press statement today, Staff Brigadier General Fadlallah Burma, member of the TMC, stressed Sudan's eagerness to restore normal relations with fraternal Ethiopia. He pointed to what the TMC announced in its statement regarding the policy of good-neighborliness with the neighboring states. He pointed out that a TMC delegation will leave for Ethiopia for this purpose.

MENA: Libya Places No Conditions on Relations

NC251834 Cairo MENA in English 1825 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 Apr (MENA) — Libya has not put any conditions for restoring relations with the Sudan, Brigadier General Fadlallah Nasir, member of the ruling TMC, said today. In a statement today, Nasir affirmed that the Libyan "brothers" pledged to side with the Sudan in all its causes and clarified that the former enmity was aimed at certain person. He also expressed the Sudan's keenness on ameliorating its relations with the "sisterly" Ethiopia in accordance with the statements issued on the revolution's early day.

Chairman Addresses TMC, Council of Ministers Session

JN251625 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the TMC and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, addressed today the joint session of the TMC and the Council of Ministers for the transitional period.

Siwar al-Dhahab said: World attention is now drawn to Sudan, which is currently implementing democratic practices after a 16-year interruption by individual rule and the confiscation of freedoms. Siwar al-Dhahab added: The eternal revolution, which was crowned by the victory of the people and their Armed Forces on 15 Rajab [6 April] and their toppling of the tyrant regime, is a popular revolution in the full sense of the word. He added: The revolution was accomplished through the people's ideology, their struggle, and the blood of the martyrs, workers, farmers, women, and faithful strugglers.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab pointed out that the revolution was drawn up by the pens of the revolutionary intellectuals and writers that the regime had oppressed the people and forced migration through words, pens, and rifles. He stressed that the revolution is for all the people. He said that there will be no containment, tyranny, or [words indistinct]. Siwar al-Dhahab said: This is the hour of serious and sincere work without whims and affiliation except for one, unified homeland so that the word will be united and the men will adhere to the revolution's honor removed from disgraceful deeds and words.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab greeted the convoy of martyrs who fell on the road and whose blood fueled the burning log of struggle. Addressing the session, Siwar al-Dhahab added that their responsibility is both sensitive and great and requires continuous work and dynamic action, because the year that was set in the charter for the completion of the democratic process requires good programming, and the tasks of the current stage requires coordinated preparation for the elections — preparations that must begin tomorrow.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said: The charter by which the people have agreed to work includes general points that should be studied carefully. The objectives of the stage of moving from national objectives to the homeland's democratic approach should be defined.

Siwar al-Dhahab pointed out that a legal draft of the charter will be among the major priorities of the [words indistinct] council. He added that the Constitution that was agreed upon needs thorough study to include trimming and amendments in order to be commensurate with the requirements of the transitional stage, the national objectives of the homeland and the citizens, and the developments occuring within the framework of decentralization and regionalrule. Siwar al-Dhahab expressed the hope that this issue will be decided as soon as possible so that every citizen will be reassured of the supremacy of the law.

Chairman of the TMC Gen Siwar al-Dhahab stressed that the members of the TMC will assess the role of the Council of Ministers. He pointed out that the objectives have been determined and clarified. The tasks and spheres of authority have been separated, and there will be no exploitation of democracy masking dictatorial plans that would lead to encroachment and estrangement, and, consequently, to isolation and tyranny. He said that the two councils will be one entity whose responsibility will be to draw up the nation's democratic future, and to achieve the homeland's unity, independence, the security of its territory and development, and to realize the people's hopes and aspirations.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said that the basis that is proposed for building democracy — the action charter adopted being an introduction to democracy — requires laying the foundations for and establishing democratic groupings in accordance with a concept that acknowledges the rights of all national political parties active during the short periods of democratic rule before and after Sudan's independence, and any new parties that national and sincere groups establish to organize their political cadres in preparation for the period of democratic transformation and in accordance with the following controls:

1. The application of democratic systems in the formation of collective leaderships and in the adoption of their decisions;
2. The formulation of overt political programs and objectives and the commitment to their implementation;
3. The publication of the bylaws organizing the action of the party or the group;
4. Keeping those politically tarnished from leadership positions;
5. Obtaining permission for the establishment of a party or group from a neutral committee entrusted with the preparation for the democratic transformation formed by the transitional government in accordance with controls to be specified.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said that the basis proposed for building democracy is a concept that covers political parties and other democratic groupings along with the Constituent Assembly. He added that by democratic groupings is meant professional and factional unions, trade unions, and youth and women's organizations which must work in accordance with the following rights and duties:

1. Clear basic prorgams and bylaws regulating their work;
2. The recognition of their rights and their participation in the political course;
3. Providing them with a share in the political arena commensurate with their influence, and allowing them to partici-

pate and be represented in the various democratic councils by members from their parties.

On the Constitutent Assembly, Siwar al-Dhahab said that it will represent the exercise of the people's authority through sound democratic rule, and its establishment will take place in the wake of a democratic study with the participation of various national forces in accordance with the following bases and prerogatives:

1. It will represent the united Sudanese nation;
2. Its political constituencies will be defined geographically and in proportion to the population in each of these constituencies;
3. The Constitution and the statutes will define its duties and prerogatives at a later time;
4. It will assume the legislative authority and will supervise the executive authorities;
5. It will adopt the permanent constitution of Sudan.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab stressed the independence of the judiciary as the safety valve for democracy and that the performance of justice and the protection of the Constitution will be its basic duties during the transitional period. Gen Siwar al-Dhahab added that during this period, the duties of the People's Armed Forces will be to supervise the implementation of the political program to be submitted with the other national forces, not to mention their sacred duties in safeguarding the achievements of the nation and upgrading their combat efficiency to enable them to carry out their basic role of defending the homeland's independence, sovereignty, and security.

On the economy, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said that the revolution has inherited a heavy burden. He added: Confusion, poor planning, complete subservience to foreign companies, and the reliance on loans and their misuse have weakened the economic infrastructure of the entire homeland and has led to this serious deterioration.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab added that the defunct regime which led the citizens into believing that this homeland is a basket of food for all the world has transformed our citizens into beggars soliciting a loaf of bread from the world. He said that if we want to extricate ourselves from this deteriorating situation, then we must depend on ourselves in accordance with emergency plans and other plans that will be based on a mature planning of our economic resources to provide the people's needs within a framework of cooperation with all the countries and the peoples of the world in order to provide for urgent needs.

Gen 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Siwar al-Dhahab indicated that the agricultural sector has priority over the other sectors in Sudan and should be assigned the task of increasing development by moving from the traditional level to one of mechanization, and by providing the seed, fertilizers, and insecticides necessary for agricultural production. Siwar al-Dhahab emphasized that agriculture is the only way to overcome the specter of famine that is threatening the homeland. He stressed that the current economic situation is a real problem requiring more political flexibility in Sudan's international dealings for the sake of overcoming the deadlock.

His excellency said that diplomacy should serve the national economy by intensifying its role in attracting foreign investments, loans, and aid in support of the efforts being exerted in the field of self-dependence.

Regarding the problem of the south, Siwar al-Dhahab said that this problem constitutes a real obstacle to the nation's economic, political, and social progress. Siwar al-Dhahab appealed to all the conferees to work seriously in order to contain the armed conflict, and invited the other side to an objective dialogue that will ultimately achieve security and economic stability for southern Sudan. His excellency appealed to all brothers who carry arms to return to their country and resort to logic instead of the rifle.

Siwar al-Dhahab also addressed a special appeal to the southern ministers to contribute to strengthening the necessary (?solid ground) before the national conference on the south convenes in order to draw up the scientific bases for solving the problem in a radical way.

Addressing the joint session of the TMC and the transitional Council of Ministers at the People's Palace this morning, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said: We are looking forward to 25 April 1986 when, God willing, the Constituent Assembly, through which power will be handed over to the people, will hold its first meeting. His excellency stressed that the pledge he made before the people is binding and that the oath he made is irrevocable. His excellency called on all the people to stand behind their revolution by increasing production and work. he also called on them to be fully vigilant and disclose the dens of the malicious. He added: We will take to task all the corrupt ones as well as those who oppressed people and held sway over them. We will restore your rights, which were lost through corruption, treason, nepotism, and negligence.

Regarding foreign policy, Siwar al-Dhahab emphasized the genuine principles in which our people believe and which they accept as a course for political action. His excellency also affirmed the following regarding our foreign policy:

1. Sovereignty in Sudan resides in the people;
2. Commitment and adherence to the principles contained in the UN Charter;
3. Abidance by the bilateral, regional, and international charters, treaties, and agreements;
4. Sudan's affiliation to the Arab and African world and its commitment to the Arab League and OAU Charters;
5. Maintenance of the bonds of blood, kinship, and common destiny with fraternal Egypt;
6. Firm stand on the side of the Palestinian Arab people in their efforts to restore their rights, determine their destiny, and establish their independent state on their soil under the PLO's leadership;
7. Strong support for the African peoples in their struggle against racism and racial discrimination;
8. Commitment to the Islamic Conference Charter;
9. Adherence to the nonaligned principles and the adoption of a foreign policy based on heeding the country's supreme interests and guaranteeing complete neutrality free from axes and alliances.

He added: Sudan views with increasing concern the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the destruction that has exhausted the energies of these two Islamic countries, in addition to the painful consequences on both the regional and international levels. We feel that at this stage, we are most qualified to mediate between the two sides in order to end the conflict peacefully. I request you to be prepared and to pave the way on both the information and diplomatic levels to play this role.

Prime Minister Addresses Cabinet Session 25 Apr
JN251943 Khartoum SUNA in English 1855 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, April 25, (SUNA) — Our first duty is to transfer the power to the people and this will be through the Constituent Assembly to be elected via democratic ways, said chief of the newly sworn-in cabinet Dr Al-Jazuli Daf'allah before the joint TMC and the Council of Ministers here today. He said the Assembly to be would write and pass the permanent constitution. The Assembly will have as mission to elect the government at the end of the transitional period, he said. Al-Jazuli further pointed out that this step needs regulations and laws to govern the elections.

The question of southern Sudan should be solved through democratic dialogue and a regional self-government in which all the political powers in the region will participate, he stressed. The transitional government has to work for security and peace in the south and this serve the supreme interests of the nation, he said.

Liquidation of the effects of the defunct May regime by revising the theoretical frameworks, performance of corporation and accounting of the defunct regime tools who destroyed the national economy is a priority that requires a democratic policy based on the independence of judiciary to root the principles of justice and sovereignity of rule of law and restoration of freedom, Al-Jazuli said. [Sentence as received] The duties of this phase are the guarantee of the independence of civil service to root the true democratic values the realization of universities independence and guarantee of scientific research freedom, Al-Jazuli said. [Sentence as received]

In the address he delivered today before the joint session of the TMC and the Cabinet Dr Al-Jazuli pointed out that trade unions did not avoid deviation in practicies but despite that they were the pioneers of the revolution. Al-Jazuli also called for the independence and neutrality of information bodies to be a pillar for good performance in various fields.

Al-Jazuli went on saying that the task of the transitional government is the halting of deterioration in the national economy resulting from the defunct regime's policies. The cure of this situation requires a revision of the components of our national economy and the sufferings of the economy's sectors particularly its productive sectors which ails from chronic structural diseases, a matter that can be achieved by co-ordination between economic and social policies, Al-Jazuli said. [Sentence as received] Dr Al-Jazuli affirmed the transitional government will revise the public and development budget to reactivate national economy and to achieve development.

The government will rebuild the public corporation by democratic means and more concern will be paid to the banking system in accordance with national development requirements, Al-Jazuli said. This cannot be achieved without a clear economic prorgam that gives priority to the demands of popular upheaval, he added.

The prime minister also called for increased concern to contain the problem of drought and destrification with emphasis to attract outside aid besides laying a scientific program to halt desert creep. He said economic laws should be revised in order to align all the policies.

On foreign policy the premier stressed on good neighborliness with emphasis on special relations with Egypt.

In the Arab scene, Dr Al-Jazuli called for the unity of Arab ranks and realization of Palestinian rights, He said Sudan will continue to support the struggle against racial discrimination in southern Africa and promote reinforcement of the bonds of friendship among African peoples. Sudan will continue to chart the course of neutrality in international affairs, he said. [Passage indistinct]

Cabinet Spokesman Reports on First Session
LD251805 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its first session at noon today under the chairmanship of Dr Al-Jazuli Daf'allah, chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the council's headquarters.

Mr Muhammad Bashir Hamid, minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Council of Ministers issued press statements after the session in which he declared that the session had heard general explanations of various problems facing the country. Members of the council submitted ideas on these problems. Opinions were exchanged about various problems without indicating specific problems. [Sentence as heard]

He added that the council will hold subsequent meetings in the coming period after the ministers have acquainted themselves with the performance and progress of work in the ministries so that the stage of serious work begins with the aim of confronting (?all) the problems.

The Council of Ministers will hold its next meeting at its headquarters next Monday morning [29 April]. He said an atmosphere of understanding and frankness prevailed at the session. Opinions were exchanges on the problems in general.

About the southern problem, Mr Muhammad Bashir said some moves, which aim to solve this problem, have begun. He explained, in this respect, that there are contacts between the Trade Union Alliance and Dr John Garang. He added that there are delegations from the TMC for visiting [as heard] the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Ethiopia to improve relations within the framework of the policy that aims to adopt the principle of good-neighborliness.

On a question about evaluating the relationship between the TMC and the Council of Ministers, his excellency said: All indications point to full cooperation for the sake of the country's interest.

TMC Member Orders Improvement in Broadcasting

EA251538 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Engineer Lieutenant General Muhammad Tawfiq Khalil, member of the TMC, chaired a lengthy meeting in his office at the General Command this morning, attended by Eng Staff Brig 'Uthman KhadirBabakr, commander of the Signals Corps; Eng Ahmad Hasan (?Tabrizi), director general of telephone and radio communications; Eng Hasan Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, director of engineering affairs at the national radio and TV organization; and Eng Ahmad Daf'allah Muhammad, director of broadcasting at the national radio and TV organization, to discuss broadcasting problems in the country, especially radio transmission to remote areas, such as Kordofan, Darfur and the southern regions.

His excellency directed that immediate steps be taken to implement all decisions adopted with a view to improving radio broadcasting. His excellency explained to the participants the importance attached by the chairman and members of the TMC to this matter, and the need for it to be given priority so that all citizens will be able to be aware of what was taking place in the homeland.

Defense Minister on Dialogue With Garang

JN251631 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — Staff Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Abdallah Muhammad, TMC member and defense minister, has said that the TMC has called for an open dialogue, and called on Colonel John Garang to respond to the call of the revolution's masses. He added that the Army is no longer tyrant Numayri's Army, but has become the Sudanese People's Army. He said: We have opened our hearts to dialogue and we are still calling on Brother Garang to come to his homeland and sit with his brothers around one table to discuss the issues that would achieve the homeland's security and stability.

Brig Gen 'Uthman 'Abdallah also stressed that the TMC will welcome Brother John Garang if he comes to Khartoum at any time, or in any place he would choose for negotiations on any level, be it military, popular, or government.

Council of Ministers Appeals to Garang for Dialogue

EA251936 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] We now present the following statement by the prime minister on the southern problem:

The Council of Ministers, in its first meeting held at noon today, 25 April 1985, primarily discussed the dimensions of the southern problem and the various circumstances connected with it in the light of current developments and [words indistinct].

The council unanimously agreed on the need for initiating and strengthening channels of (?open) dialogue with John Garang and surrounding (?countries) which are connected with this issue, and (?efforts) of the Southern Region towards agreement on an ideal formula that will realize and safeguard the country's national interests, especially now that the Council of Ministers includes representatives from the north and the south.

It is now preparing to study and specify the characteristics of the transitional stage and its establishment on the bases of democracy and neutrality, which will constitute a suitable opportunity for John Garang and his colleagues to participate in (?the honor) of this great action on which the future and stability of Sudan depend.

Therefore, we appeal to Brother John Garang and his colleagues to comply with this (?request) of [words indistinct] and national responsibility. They will be doing great work in complying quickly, especially in light of the disappearance of the objectionable factors which led to the eruption of the rebellion in the south and to the uprising of the popular will on the 6 April 1985.

Education Minister Returns for Swearing-In Ceremony

JN251127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — Bashir Haj al-Tum, minister of education and instruction, returned to the country from Saudi Arabia last night in order to take the constitutional oath and assume his post as a minister. He was nominated to this post when the transitional government has announced last Monday. His excellency had worked with the University of Umm al-Qura in Mecca.

Prime Minister Receives Election Committee Official

JN241531 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA) — Prime Minister Dr Daf'allah al-Jazuli received Husayn Mahmud, secretary general of the Technical Committee for Elections and Referendum, this morning and entrusted him to prepare a report on the electoral experience preceding May 1969.

In a statement to the press, the prime minister said that the meeting dealt with ways to hold elections and the rules and laws governing the election process, stressing that the current priority is to convey power to the people in a democratic and honorable way and through a constituent assembly that will be freely and neutrally elected at the end of the transitional periord.

Siwar al-Dhahab's Statement to Bandung Conference

JN251506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the TMC and People's Armed Forces commander in chief, has addressed the African, Asian,

and Latin American peoples on the 30th anniversary of the Bandung Conference which first convened 19-24 April 1955. Gen Siwar al-Dhahab's address was read at the conference in Indonesia by 'Umar Bridu, Sudan's permanent representative to the United Nations.

In his address Siwar al-Dhahab stated that the Bandung Conference had been a turning point in these peoples' history. He added that the conference was made up of leaders of liberation movements who had fought against colonialism, and who later liberated their countries and led their peoples' march toward freedom and progress.

In his address read to the Bandung Conference, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said that in spite of the fact that at the time Sudan had not achieved its independence and its complete sovereignty, it did not hesitate to participate in this great event through a delegation under the late Isma'il al-Azhari, prime minister of the transitional period at that time. He added that the Bandung Conference formulated the ideological and political bases of the Nonaligned Movement, which comprised nascent countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and consolidated them in a movement that safeguarded their independence, kept them removed from international power struggles, freed them from the residues of the colonialist legacy, and put them on the road to construction and development.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said that the Nonaligned Movement has entrenched these countries' course against neocolonialist methods that try to void these peoples' independence and destroy there economic, social, and cultural values. Emphasizing the basic and positive role the Nonaligned Movement is assuming, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab praised the Bandung Conference anniversary, stressing that the Nonaligned Movement has become the third course between the two superpowers, a basic factor in safeguarding international peace and security, and an advocate for the definition of international relations on bases of justice and equality among all countries.

Siwar al-Dhahab said that the Nonaligned Movement succeeded in making the United Nations adopt the principle of the peoples' right to self-determination in 1961. It is also the one that is calling for the establishment of a new world economic system based on justice and for a new information system that will allow Third World countries to explain what is taking place in their own countries and in the world from their own viewpoints. He added that the Nonaligned Movement is also the one which is calling for nuclear disarmament, for safeguarding civilization, and for championing the values of peace, freedom, and progress.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab stressed that the Sudanese people and government abide by the Bandung Conference objectives and work to protect them against colonialism, Zionism, and racial discrimination by condemning their crimes, and by reaffirming the pursuit of the struggle for the liquidation of colonialist pockets and their attempts to disperse the peoples' movements and fabricate peripheral disputes among them.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab stressed that Sudan now returns to the Nonaligned Movement as a militant force after the Sudanese people and their Armed Forces scored a decisive victory over the servile and subservient era which had traded with the homeland's interests. He said that Sudan returns to the Nonaligned Movement with its sublime principles and values and that it will translate in words and deeds its commitment to the principles of safeguarding peace, good neighborliness, the exchange of mutual benefits, and the consolidation of relations of friendship with all peoples.

Chairman Meets Socialist Front Members

JN251947 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the TMC, received in his office at the General Command this afternoon a delegation of the Sudanese Socialist Popular Front-Revolutionary Committees Movement headed by 'Abdallah Zakariyah. Siwar al-Dhahab congratulated the delegation members on their return to the homeland which, he said, is in great need of their qualifications and abilities. He emphasized the need for the people to rally around the revolution so it can lead the homeland to the horizons of progress and prosperity.

The Sudanese Socialist Popualr Front used to conduct its struggle from certain neighboring fraternal states, where it played an active role in ending the rule of tyrant Numayri.

Reportage on Visit of Netherlands Minister

Offer More Refugee Aid

JN241107 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, Apr 24 (SUNA) — The Government of the Netherlands has expressed sincere desire to present more aid to Sudan to contain the problem of refugees. In a meeting with Acting Commissioner of Refugees Hasan 'Atiyah, Dutch minister of development cooperation commended here yesterday the efforts exerted by Sudan in hosting refugees, a matter that assured Sudan's respect to the international conventions.

'Atiyah briefed the guest on the recent developments of refugees comditions and the efforts exerted by Sudan's government in hosting them as well as aid presented by sisterly and friendly countries and the international humanitarian organizations. The guest also got acquainted with needs of refugees and areas affected by refugees presence. The minister arrived here yesterday after inspecting refugees conditions in Somalia and Ethiopia and will tour refugees camps in the Eastern Region.

The guest is scheduled to inspect establishments presented by the Dutch Government to refugees in Sudan and to confer with officials at the Ministry of Finance and Ecomomic Planning and the National Commission for Drought and Desertification.

Meets With Siwar al-Dhahab

JN251046 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, Shaban 5, April 25 (SUNA) — Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation Mrs Eegje Schoo yester-

day called on TMC Chairman General Siwar al-Dhahab. He briefed her on the situation at areas affected by drought and desertification and praised Netherlands concern towards problems of Sudan.

Referring to the projects undertaken by her government in Sudan, Schoo voiced willingness to continue Netherlands aid to Sudan. She further praised Sudan's accomodation of refugees and expressed satisfaction over the political changes that Sudan had witnessed.

The Dutch minister, who arrived here Tuesday within a tour of African countries, visited Wednesday Sharif refugees camp in the Eastern Region.

Concludes Visit, Departs
JN251511 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation Mrs Eegje Schoo left this morning following her visit to Sudan. During the visit, the Netherlands minister met with senior Sudanese officials and was briefed on the affects of drought, desertification, and the refugees' conditions, particularly in the eastern part of the country. The Netherlands minister also met with the representatives of the UN High Commission for Refugees, UNICEF, the U.S. AID, the World Food Program, and the Sudanese Council of Churches in Khartoum.

Chairman Receives Aid From Banks, Companies
JN231530 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 23 Apr (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the TMC, has received a 5 million pound check from the Arab Glue Company Ltd in support of the Fund for Saving the National Economy from 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, the company's general director, and a member of the board of directors. His excellency also received a 500,000 pound check donation from the Faysal Islamic Bank, and a 75,000 pound check donated by the Kinanah Sugar Company for the same purpose.

Finance Minister Donates Salary to Treasury
JN251757 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum Apr 25 (SUNA) — Minister of Finance and Economic Planning 'Awad 'Abd al-Majjid has announced he would give his salary and other priveleges as minister to the treasury of the country during his stay in this post, pledging that he would only use his private car during official duties.

In a statement issued to the Sudanese people today the minister said he realized the dilemma of the Sudanese economy which is reflected in famine which killed undisclosed numbers of citizens. He added that the popular uprising of April-6 was the mini-jihad (holy war) but the task of economic reform is actually the biggest jihad.

Former Regime's Property Malpractices Exposed
JN251141 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1047 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — The committee entrusted with the task of stocktaking the properties of the disbanded SSU has disclosed that the disbanded organization owned real estate in the capital valued at nearly 30 million Sudanese pounds.

Staff Major General 'Abd al-'Azim Sadiq, chairman of the committee, said that the ownership of the property was transferred to the disbanded organization after it was seized from its owners in accordance with a republican decree issued by the deposed tyrant. He said that the committee impounded more than 60 vehicles as well as a large number of refrigerators, television sets, and cassette recorders. Moreover, large quantities of stationary materials were found at the disbanded organization's stores. These materials had been stored there for a long period and were consequently damaged.

Trade Union Alliance Member on Future Plans
JN251058 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA) — Sulayman Bildu, member of the Trade Union Alliance, affirmed yesterday that the alliance plans to establish an organizational infrastructure to govern the relations between its affiliated unions. It also plans to form specialized committees to study a number of economic, educational, and information issues.

The Trade Union Alliance member explained that the alliance will be called upon more than ever before to organize its ranks and mobilize its human and technical capabilities in order to enable the trade union movement to play its true role. He indicated that the overthrow of tyrant Numayri was not its primary target. It was merely a first step toward achieving a future program in order to attain democracy and restore the Sudanese citizen's dignity.

Anya Nya Two Holds Press Conference 25 Apr
JN251828 Khartoum SUNA in English 1810 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, Apr 25 (SUNA) — The Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (Anya Nya Two) Executive Committee held a press conference here today chaired by the committee's member Gabriel Gany. Addressing the conference Gany said we have come to Khartoum in response to an invitation by the chairman of the Transitional Military Council and not a surrender. He added that our task here is to discuss the problem of the south democratically. In this respect, Gany said we urged all the Sudanese people to work sincerely to achieve a lasting peace and to avoid the appearance of any Anya Nya No (3).

Following his address Gany answered questions put to him by the representatives of the local and foreign mass media. Replying to a question on the solution of the south problem Gany explained that his group calls for the establishment of a confederal system in the south under the unity of the whole country in addition to repealing the Islamic laws (Shari'a) because these laws forbid

them from effective participation and the leadership of this nation which they think they have the right to lead and develop.

Gany pointed out that they had stopped military operations since last August in response to the first contact made between them and the new government.

Replying to a question on the differences between them and the Sudan's People Liberation Army (SPLA) led by John Garang, Gany said we want a federal rule in the south while the SPLA fights for liberating the whole Sudan.

Opposition Leader Zakariyah's Statement to SUNA

JN261050 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum Apr. 26 (SUNA) — The Sudanese Socialist Popular Front (S.S.P.F) Secretary General 'Abdallah Zakariyah has pointed out that the genuine solution to the problem of the south lies in creating new democratic and socialist Sudanese community and establishing the people's authority on basis of popular congresses and committees. In a statement to SUNA yesterday, Zakariyah touched on the economic crisis in Sudan explaining that the only way out to surmount it is to establish a new socialist system based on the notion that the one who produces is the one who consumes.

On Sudan's foreign policy, Zakariyah said it should reflect the dignity and greatness of the Sudanese people who achieved the miracles of October and April revolutions, and it should also inspire all the glories of the Sudanese popular struggle against despotism and oppression.

On the national aspect, Zakariyah affirmed we have to believe that the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East problem and we have to remain committed to the Khartoum summit conference's resolutions mainly based on the three famous no's. Hence we have to reject the Camp David accord.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on New Regime, Ties

PM251605 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Apr 85 pp 9-11

[Interview with Dr Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood, by Nura Fakhuri in Khartoum -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Is it true that General Siwar al-Dhahab was reluctant to take the steps he has taken?
Answer: So I heard. I heard that he was reluctant, but the same thing happened in October [not further specified], when a popular revolution took over power. The reaction to it was limited. Revolutionary reactions do not take place in Sudan.

Question: After 1964 came Numayri. Do you imagine that another "Numayri" will emerge after some time?
Answer: What I expect is that the transitional period will end with power handed over to the people. I believe that what you say is likely.

Question: What will happen if the generals disagree among themselves?
Answer: I do not think that they will. Previously, the civilian authority deviated and the people rectified the course. If the military authority deviates, then the people will again rectify the course. What is reassuring is that we are not dealing with a single military person but with a council that has the backing of the whole officers' movement. This leadership, under which the Army chose to move in order to preserve its integrity, will deal with whoever tries to abuse the trust placed in it during the transition period.

Question: I gather from what you are saying that what happened on the night of 6 April was what the people are talking about — that the decision was not Siwar al-Dhahab's but rather an action to forestall a coup which some young officers were preparing.
Answer: The coup that was more likely to take power was not the one for which some officers were preparing; it was another coup for which international powers were preparing in collaboration with one of the men of the previous regime and who is now under arrest, namely 'Umar al-Tayyib. A foreign intervention was expected to take place and preparations and contacts were underway for this purpose. What happened was that the popular demonstratios ruined this plan and the Armed Forces intervened collectively in support of the people's movement.

Question: Who was behind the coup that was supposed to take place? Did Egyptian intelligence have knowledge of the matter?
Answer: Egyptian intelligence most probably had knowledge, and I believe that U.S. intelligence was behind what was supposed to happen.

Question: Marshal Abu Ghazalah [Egyptian Defense Minister] is one of Siwar Al-Dhahab's closest friends. What was Egypt's role in the coup that took place?
Answer: I do not think that Egypt had knowledge of the situation developing the way it finally did. As for the harassment of Numayri and the suggestion to many people that Numayri's role was over, which encouraged many people to move against him, that orginiated from many Egyptian quarters. What happened was genuine and surprised many people.

Question: But in his statements Siwar al-Dhahab insists on emphasizing that his relations with Egypt are unbreakable and also insists on confirming his ties with the Americans. So what has changed?
Answer: What has changed was only that the door has been open for a civilian government to take over power after one year. This was also what happened in October. The transitional government is not a revolutionary government and does not intend to carry out drastic changes.

Question: It was obvious that the Muslim Brotherhood as a political movement did not participate in the popular demonstrations. Why?
Answer: As a political movement with its own slogans they were indeed absent.

Question: Why were they absent? Is it true that they were absent because the people resented them?

Answer: No, there was no fear from the people. Did you not attend the recent seminar? [Not further specified]

Question: Yes, but not all those who attended were Muslim Brotherhood members.
Answer: Why were there so few people at the Al-Tajammu' [political party] seminars? There was only one-twentieth of this number. [as published]

Question: Maybe because the Sudanese public was curious to see Al-Turabi. [as published]
Answer: Why?

Question: Because Al-Turabi was in jail and because some Sudanese regard Al-Turabi as one of the people responsible for what happened during the previous regime, particularly what happened in the recent period. The people wanted to see how Al-Turabi would justify himself and dare to talk to the public after Mahmud Taha [leader of the Muslim Republican Party] was executed.
[Al-Turabi laughs] Answer: You attended the seminar. Was the attitude of those present hostile?

Question: No, they were curious. What is your answer to those who claim that you have a relationship with and open lines to Ahmed Khomeyni?
Answer: I do not know Ahmed Khomeyni and have never met him in my life. I have exchanged no messages with him. I visited Iran immediately after the revolution and met with [Ayatollah] Khomeyni personally.

Question: How would you describe your relations with the Iranians today?
Answer: There are no relations, but we demand normalization of relations with Iran and Libya, as well as with all the countries with which Numayri severed relations. This is because Numayri's policy — his foreign policy, his policy on Palestine, and his policy on the question of the Falashas -- was designed to please the United States.

Question: Do you believe that the Islamic Shari'a as it was applied by courts during Numayri's regime was correctly applied?
Answer: It was not the ideal way because the application was restricted to criminal, civic, and commercial laws and did not relate to constitutional laws such as consultation [Shurah] and purity of government. Numayri wanted to apply Shari'a to the people but not to himself as an individual or as a ruler.

Question: Do you know that they are calling you "Sudan's Khomeyni?"
Answer: That is an illusion. Khomeyni's cultural framework is different. He is a great traditional scholar, while I am a man who was brought up on realism. Not all Islamic movements are judged by the same standard.

Question: What do you think of what General Siwar al-Dhahab says about his foreign policy and about Sudan's friendship with the United States?
Answer: Siwar al-Dhahab is only a transitional ruler; he does not represent Sudan's constant political line. This will be defined by a legitimately elected authority later. With regard to friendship, I do not believe in hostility toward any foreign government, not even toward Russia. I would like to normalize relations with Russia because Numayri, owing to his hostility to the Communist Party, went too far by alienating Sudan from Russia and the eastern camp.

But what I do not wish to happen is for Sudan is to lose its political independence or for friendship to become servility. We should not allow the international political and economic institutions to exercise powers on behalf of the people. I do not accept that. I believe that the country should be independent. I am not saying that I want to hoist the banner of hostility toward the United States, Russia, Libya, or Egypt. On the contrary, I support the strengthening of relations with the Egyptian people, but I would like integration to be kept away from any military axis directed against another Arab country and not to become a political axis supporting policies that are contrary to the Arab line in Palestine. I am for integration, especially if it is a people's integration.

Question: Dr Turabi, will we be calling on you in a year at the People's Palace, as president of the Republic?
Answer: I do not imagine so, but, God willing, you will find me in the field.

Al-Ummah Party Leader on New Regime, Foreign Ties

PM231330 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 85 pp 1,2

[Interview with Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Al-Ummah Party, by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What is your analysis of what happened in Sudan against Numayri's regime?
Answer: What happened was a popular uprising which was somewhat a repetition of what happened in October 1964, which goes to show that there is a popular awareness in Sudan that resists tyranny and at a certain stage puts an end to it. The popular uprising was a reaction to Numayri's regime that humiliated the Sudanese and harmed them to the extent that they almost lost their self-confidence. This revolution has revived the Sudanese people's spirit. Numayri based his rule on several repressive organs and on the difference in stands between the Army and the people. The revolution that has taken place has rectified this because it gave the Army the opportunity to play a major role alongside the people and with one blow to remove all the paraphernalia on which Numayri based his rule.

Question: How do you view the future of political action?
Answer: We are now going through a transitional period. The most important thing is the restoration of freedoms, the independence of the judiciary, human dignity and rights, freedom of the press and expression, and other liberties. We believe that such freedoms have begun to be exercised. There will be a transitional period during which there will be some sort of coalition between the Army and the party and trade unionist forces until this period is over.

Question: What in your view are the most difficult obstacles facing Sudan during the transitional period?

Answer: The most important thing is to liquidate the May regime and its effects, to combat corruption, to bring to account the criminals of the previous regime responsible for the financial and political errors they made, and to solve the problem of the south which Numayri left in a state of war. The economic problem should also be dealt with through short-term solutions for a start, and good neighborly relations between us and all our neighbors should be established. I believe that these are the basic tasks of the future.

Question: Do you believe that one year is enough as a transitional period or will the militarists enjoy the taste of power?
Answer: I believe that it is unlikely that the present government will choose to repress Sudan as there are grave problems in Sudan and the people's nature does not allow such a thing. I do not think that the question of the militarists enjoying the taste of power is a likely matter because the brother officials in the Military Council have been forced to adopt this stand. In other words, they were faced with two options: Either strike at the people or expel Numayri. They chose the latter action. I believe that they are people who are aware of the present situation, and evidence of this is the fact that they have included loyalty to the transitional charter in the oath they take as military personnel.

Question: What economic policy should be followed at this stage in order to save the country?
Answer: In my view the most prominent problems were the excessive expenditure by the government, the great drop in production, incorrect implementation of development projects, financial corruption, and the economic maladministration characteristic of the previous regime. I believe that those problems cannot be solved overnight. The number one financial drain on the budget was Ja'far Numayri's personal expenditure. He was spending as if he were the emperor of Africa and not the ruler of a poor country. The mere fact that he has been expelled from power means a 20 percent reduction in the state budget. There was also the security and propaganda expenditure. Numayri was anxious to have some sort of a celebration every day; he was keen on excessive expenditure. Furthermore, development projects should be revised to be set up on a sound base. Corruption should be combated and stopped. There should be firm economic administration.

Question: How do you view solving problem of the south?
Answer: This problem has been complicated mostly by Numayri. When he came to power there was an agreement on establishing autonomy in the south, which the political parties had concluded with the southerners but was not implemented. Numayri came and implemented it; this was his only achievement. But he soon began interfering in southern affairs in a way that ruined the agreement. In the end he violated the agreement. In our view a special democratic situation should be created for the south within a unified Sudan, a situation constitutionally and politically guaranteed. There is no doubt that the south is backward and therefore there is a need to bridge the gap and strike a balance in regional development.

Some 30 years ago southerners were not educated, but there has been a great change since. They have gone to study abroad or have studied in Sudan. On the national level the southerners should be given a fair share in the civil and diplomatic services so that they will contribute to Sudan's output.

Question: How do you view future Sudanese foreign policy?
Answer: I believe that Numayri's fundamental mistake was that at the beginning he was aligned with the East and so Sudan lost. He then aligned himself with the West and Sudan again lost. There is an essential need for nonalignment in international politics and also in dealings with the world industrial states, which should be based on specific and practical development programs.

Also, with regard to the neighboring countries we should adhere to good neighborliness with those countries so as not to have problems. Therefore, it is necessary to establish good neighborly relations in our regional relations. Also, our Arab, African, and Islamic policies have deviated from their true course. This deviation has led to treasons being committed, such as in the case of the Falashas and other issues. We believe that the course of our foreign policy should be rectified so as to confirm our Arab, African, and Islamic affiliation.

Question: How do you view future relations with the United States?
Answer: Relations with the United States will be within the framework of nonalignment and the achievement of our people's interests. We believe that subservience is a political mistake. We seek friendship with the United States within the framework of nonalignment, but subservience is rejected.

Question: President Numayri's regime was strongly allied with the United States. Do you not believe that pursuing a different policy might cause you problems?
Answer: I believe that problems have resulted from the fact that Numayri was a subordinate and appendage of U.S. policy. He was not an ally. To be called an "ally" is an honorable thing. For this reason we believe that subordination to any policy causes problems more than anything else.

Question: How do you view the future of relations with the Soviet Union?
Answer: They will be within the same framework I have just spoken about — that is the framework of nonalignment.

Southern Region Official on Security Situation

JN231742 Khartoum SUNA in English 1723 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, Apr 23 (SUNA) — Top priority will be accorded to security and availability of food to the citizens in the Southern Region during the transitional period, the Southern Region Deputy President of the High Executive Council, Brig (Rtd) Andrew Makur stated today. He said stability of the security situation comes at the top in the south, and indicated that the Army's running of affairs will very much help in preserving peace and in restoration of citizens' confidence in the Army.

Makur also explained that they are awaiting a response from Colonel John Garang with a view to requisites of the current stage, and that is by allowing the regional administration to

transport food supplies to citizens in remote rural villages without attacking them.

On the issue of conducting dialogue with Col Garang, Brig Makur said Garang had rejected dialogue with dictator Numayri and his defunct regime, but we are looking forward to Garang to accept dialogue with the current government to reach a settlement acceptable to all parties.

The reactivation of the Addis Ababa accord, he said, will restore confidence to the southern masses, who opposed the fragmentation of the region by the defunct (?regime) which imposed it against the population.

Equatoria Commander Orders Cleanup of Juba

EA241741 Juba Domestic Service in English 1415 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] The commanding officer of Equatoria Military Area Major General PSC [expansion unknown] Peter Cirillo today issued Order No 1 forming a committee for clearing air and beautifying Juba Town. The order reads:

It has become quite clear that Juba Town has suffered over the past years from poor health and sanitary conditions which have affected the health and social welfare of the people. The streets of the town and its neighborhoods have been littered with human waste and [words indistinct] which have made the town look unpleasant. In order to make Juba Town once more an attractive and healthy place to live in I am hereby issuing an order to form a committee consisting of a representative from the following: Public Health Department, Juba Teaching Hospital, People's Armed Forces, workers, teachers, Muslim community, the churches — Roman Catholic and Protestant — and Women's Union. The terms of reference of this committee shall be:

1. To study ways and means of improving the health and social conditions in Juba Town; and
2. To clean up and beautify Juba Town.

The committee will carry out its work in one of the committee rooms in the former people's regional Assembly building.

Signed: Maj Gen PSC Peter Cirillo, Commanding Officer, Equatoria Military Area, Juba

SPLA: Validity of TMC Rejected; Fighting To Continue

EA251500 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 25 Apr 85

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the head of Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLA-SPLM] Department of Information, Mr Atem Yak, about the news reports which claim that the statement by SPLA-SPLM broadcast yesterday by Radio SPLA was an indication of a change in the movements stand towards the ruling military council in Khartoum headed by General Siwar al-Dhahab.

There is no change in the objectives and the policies of the SPLA-SPLM. We are carrying out an armed struggle to create a united, socialist Sudan, where the power of the central government and the national wealth will be shared by all the Sudanese without discrimination of any kind. In pursuit of that policy, SPLM-SPLA strongly advocates decentralization of power to the various regions of the Sudan for the benefit of the poor masses and not for the narrow interests of the regional elites.

As far as the present situation is concerned, we reject the ruling military council of General Siwar al-Dhahab. We cannot negotiate with it. It has been a part of Numayri's oppressive regime and has no role in the people's revolution. For that reason, the leader of SPLA-SPLM clearly told the military on 9 March [as heard] that they, the military, should hand over power to the professionals, students and workers, who had actually brought Numayri down. The refusal of the generals to surrender power to its rightful owners has led to the resumption of fighting in the south.

When the ruling military in Khartoum realized the expiry of our ultimatum, it fabricated the story that Col Dr John Garang was going to Khartoum to negotiate with the military government. This was calculated to create confusion among the Sudanese public. When the trick failed, the government itself admitted that Colonel Garang was not going to Khartoum as they had claimed.

On our side we have said there is no recognition of the present military government in Khartoum by SPLA-SPLM, nor is its leader, Col Dr John Garang, going to Khartoum to negotiate with Siwar al-Dhahab and his council. Instead, the SPLA will continue the fighting forced on them by the theft of the peoples power by a handful of Army officers representing themselves and not the oppressed masses of the Sudan.

We continue our contacts with the members of the Sudanese Armed Forces in the various garrisons in the south and, as clearly explained in the address of 22 March by Col Dr John Garang to the Sudanese people, these contacts are with the government forces, who bear the brunt of the war and that they should be conducted without Numayri. The message now is: SPLA-SPLM contacts with the government soldiers in the south are encouraging and again they are being carried out without Siwar al-Dhahab and members of his government either in the central or regional institutions.

Finally, we would like to state it loud and clear: SPLA-SPLM and its leadership are not job-seeking bodies. If that was the aim of the movement, Numayri's offer last year of the post of vice-president to Col Dr John Garang and six ministerial places for the south, which is twice the present representation of the south in Khartoum, would not have been rejected. Ministerial or similar posts are not a solution to the problems of economic and social backwardness afflicting many of our regions, nor do they break the monopoly of the power of the state, which has been concentrated in the hands of the few in Khartoum to the detriment of the rest of the Sudanese, especially those in the west, east, south and far north.

Our goal is to bring justice and equality to all Sudanese. The military government of Siwar al-Dhahab or the reactionary

parties cannot build a just and genuinely united Sudan, because they are part of the system which has been exploiting our people since independence. We cannot coperate with them in any form.

Meanwhile, the armed struggle goes on. We stand in firm solidarity with the professionals, workers, students and the patriotic forces in the regular forces, whom we call upon to disassociate themselves from the military government and the reactionary parties which are now responsible for the resumption of fighting in the country.

SPLA Radio Calls for Protests Against New Regime

EA252133 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Nyal Deng commentary: "The People's Struggle Should Enter a New Phase"]

[Text] The military administration of Siwar al-Dhahab in Khartoum has been the beneficiary of a smooth prearranged power transfer from Numayri. Since this has been the case it stands as a mere extention of the former system. Consequently, it is hard to see how it could effectively deal with the multitude of problems that have so persistently bedeviled its predecessor and finally pushed him over the brink.

A close look at what the fortunes of Siwar al-Dhahab's government are likely to be reveals that on the political front there is cause for alarm. General Siwar al-Dhahab, who by virtue of his affiliation to a particular political party, on sectarian grounds is certain to do that party some favor. It would not be surprising at all if he works to enhance the position of that party, so that at the end of the interim period it could emerge as the single most powerful and influential political party on the scene.

For the past few years the Sudanese economy has been sustained only by massive infusions of Western, and notably American, financial aid. However, this permits no more than cosmetic surgery on the battered economy. Meanwhile, a durable solution to its problems under the present system will always remain as elusive as ever. The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] wields considerable power due to its military might, which it has placed at the disposal of the Sudanese masses. Using this power the SPLA has and will continue to render all kinds of economic recovery unattainable until power is handed over to the people.

Although the SPLA does not believe in coup d'etat as a means of toppling governments, because the struggle it wages is a revolutionary process that involves not only military action but the political education of the masses, it will not hesitate to continue to bring, through sustained military action, pressure to bear on the system so as to dissuade the generals from clinging on to power.

The Khartoum regime, and the world at large, knows that the SPLA is a thorn in the side of any minority clique system in Khartoum. This is because by virtue of its activities, and the intensity of which it can regulate freely, it could critically influence the trend of events in the Sudan, as the past events in our country have convincingly shown. Indeed, we know that our military actions coupled with all the other legitimate forms of popular protest against dictatorship and oppression will always ensure victory for the Sudanese masses. The country has had enough of misery caused by the political dark ages that has held the country in its vicious grip since the dawn of independence in 1956. For all the past years the Sudan has had nothing apart from grave political crises, gross economic mismanagement, and mounting social tension.

In consequence, the ranks of the struggling people of Sudan have been thrown into such disarray that it had to take the combined powers of SPLA and the demonstrations and strikes of the people to force Numayri to bow out. Before the SPLA had made its presence felt, trade unions or professional associations who happened to stage strikes were all the time left on their own. They could not expect any support or solidarity from the members of the other professions or trade unions, and the system brushed them aside with arrogant indifference. However, with the appearance of SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] as a force to be reckoned with, the system became humbler and a new sense of solidarity was instilled in the people. This gave them new strength and vigor.

We do not doubt that the citizens know now that their exploiters are now more desperate than ever before. We should expect their ruthlessness and suppression to reach new heights. This daunting challenge could only be matched by mustering up the necessary strength. Although the people should not abandon but rather intensify all the usual forms of protest against such regimes as the present one, the difficulties involved at this crucial stage make it imperative to solidify ranks behind the SPLA-SPLM, whose rejection of any compromise of the people's interests qualifies it to assume the leading role in the striggle for a just and a better society.

SPLA Details 'Successful Ambush' in Upper Nile

EA241503 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] A successful ambush was made by the combined forces of Sudanese People's Liberation Army commando units and elements of the Janus Battalion yesterday under the command of First Lieutenant Daniel Ayual Makoi. The ambush which took place between Waat and Akobo in Upper Nile resulted in the enemy sustaining heavy casualties and details of the ambush will be brought to you as soon as they come in.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Mbasogo Holds Discussions With Soviet Envoy

AB251857 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the republic and head of state, today at the presidential palace received in audience His Excellency Boris Krasnikov, Soviet ambassador to our country, who was accompanied by a (?high-ranking aide). Although nothing filtered out of their discussions, it is believed that they concerned the relations existing between Malabo and Moscow. Also present at the audience was Marcelino Nguema Onguene, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

GABON

Democratic Kampuchean Envoy Presents Credentials

AB252237 Dakar PANA in French 1045 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Libreville, 25 Apr (PANA) — Martin Bongo, the Gabonese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Tuesday in Libreville held talks with Hing Un, Democratic Kampuchea ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Gabon who is resident in Dakar. The Khmer envoy presented to President Bongo last Saturday the letters accrediting him to Gabon, and went on to express to the Gabonese minister of foreign affairs "the Khmer people's gratitude for Gabon's moral and diplomatic support." "We are not defending the ideology but the survival of our nation. We are fighting for the integrity and the sovereignity of our country." Hing Un stated after his talks with Mr Bongo.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Meets With Chadian Foreign Minister

AB251350 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1230 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 25 Apr (AZAP) — The Chadian Government remains open to all initiatives that favor national reconciliation in Chad and the restoration of its territorial integrity, Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou stated following an audience granted him today by Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko at Camp Tshatshi.

During the audience, the Chadian minister delivered to the head of state a message from President Hissein Habre. In the message, the Chadian president apprised President Mobutu of the evolution of the situation on the ground in Chad.

According to Mr Lassou, the situation is marked by the persistence of the foreign occupation of the north and the restoration of peace among the people of the south following President Hissein Habre's recent tour of the region.

Therefore, there is calm throughout the entire territory under the control of the Ndjamena government, which has been making diplomatic efforts to create the conditions necessary for the promotion of understanding among all Chadians. The government has also been extending hands to its opponents.

It is within this context that the Chadian foreign minister recently visited President Sassou-Guesso, who has been mandated by the OAU to arrange national reconciliation meetings among the Chadians.

BENIN

Kerekou Receives Congolese, World Bank Groups

AB251305 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] President Mathieu Kerekou, head of state, yesterday afternoon at the Republican Palace received a Congolese delegation headed by Aime Emmanuel Yoka, minister delegate in charge of the president's office, and a delegation of the Board of Governors of the World Bank which arrived in our country Monday.

The Congolese minister, who came to deliver to the Beninese head of state a message from Congolese head of state, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, said the message falls within the outgoing mutual discussions between our two heads of state. On the eve of the 21st OAU summit and of the meeting of the African Development Bank, in Brazzaville, these discussions, he continued, enable views to be exchanged on issues of common interest. The Congolese minister delegate in charge of the president's office was accompanied by Comrade Auxence Ikonga. Comrade Ikonga, age 46, has just been appointed director general of the multinational Air Afrique Company.

The delegation of the board of governors of the World Bank, which was headed by Van Dam, was also received by the head of state. According to Mr Van Dam, President Kerekou briefed the delegation on the socioeconomic problems of the People's Republic of Benin as well as its policies and appealed to the World Bank to come to the help of our country. Mr Van Dam said that negotiations are being held between the People's Republic of Benin and the World Bank, adding that Benin can expect the World Bank to respond favorably to President Kerekou's appeal.

GAMBIA

Jawara Commutes Death Sentences of 1981 Coupists

AB251657 Paris AFP in French 1430 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Banjul, 25 Apr (AFP) — On Wednesday, Gambia marked the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the status of republic. To celebrate the occasion, Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara commuted to life imprisonment the death sentences passed on six prisoners who were implicated in the abortive coup attempt in July 1981 in Gambia. Among the six prisoners are Ousseynou Diao who was a member of the "Supreme Revolutionary Council" and leader of the abortive coup attempt in the Gambia. It was learned from official sources that 10 other prisoners facing death sentences following the failed coup also had their sentences reduced to 20 years jail (for 8 of them) and to 15 years jail for 2 others.

It is noted that this is the second time that the Gambian president is commuting death sentences to life imprisonment. In February 1983, he commuted the death sentences passed on 27 prisoners (implicated in the abortive coup attempt), among whom was Pape Djij Yacine Seka, leader of the National Liberation Front (an opposition party now dissolved in the Gambia).

IVORY COAST

Chinese Friendship Delegation Begins Visit

AB251844 Paris AFP in French 0913 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Abidjan, 25 Apr (AFP) — A delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries led by its vice president, Wang Fulin, arrived in Abidjan on Tuesday, it was learned in the Ivorian economic capital on Wednesday. The five-man delegation will be in Ivory Coast till 30 April and will visit some towns in the interior of the country.

An Ivorian delegation led by Minister of Justice Lanzeni Coulibaly visited the PRC last year after diplomatic relations were established between Beijing and Abidjan in March 1983. Before arriving in the Ivory Coast, the delegation had visited Cameroon and the Congo. It is also expected to visit Angola and the Malagasy Republic.

LIBERIA

Election Commission Suspends LAP Activities

AB251446 Paris AFP in English 1427 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Monrovia, April 25 (AFP) — Liberia's Special Elections Commission has suspended the activities of the Liberia Action Party (LAP) until "certain matters are cleared" with the Supreme Court here, LAP Secretary-General S. Byron Tarr told journalists today. The party had just become the second to be probated and legally registered for general elections in October to return Liberia to civilian rule.

Mr Tarr made the announcement when he postponed a press conference at which he had planned to give a timetable of LAP activities leading up to the elections. He said LAP received the suspension letter during the night and argued that the Elections Commission had "no jurisdiction" over the party after it had been cleared and probated as a political entity in Liberia.

Probate Court Judge Luvenia Ash-Thompson probated LAP after the court dismissed objections from a group of citizens from eastern Liberia that the party engaged in "fraud and deceit" in collecting its partisan list in their area. The only other political party given clearance by the commission is the National Democratic Party of Liberia, which is backing the country's present leader, Samuel Doe, as presidential candidate.

Further on Court Decision

AB260950 Monrovia ELWA in English 0655 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Following the probation of its political documents by the People's Monthly and Probate Court for Montserrado County, the Liberia Action Party, LAP, has dissolved its organizing committee. The organizing committee of LAP has now been replaced by an executive committee.

Speaking during a press conference at LAP headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia, yesterday, the secretary general of the party,

Dr Byron Tarr, said the change is significant because the national organizing committee has successfully completed its mission for which it was established. According to Dr Tarr, the national executive committee shall be the highest policymaking body of LAP. It shall perform all other functions assigned to it under the party's Constitution.

Finance Minister Addresses Economic Symposium
AB250920 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Finance Minister J. Alvin Jones has said that the Government of Liberia will continue to take more realistic and courageous measures to improve the economy. He said, in an effort to solve some of the liquidity problems facing the country, the government entered into an arrangement with the commercial banks, adding, both parties are renegotiating a new agreement aimed at further enchancing and restoring confidence in the banking system.

The finance minister made the statement yesterday at the Unity Conference Center during a 1-day symposium on Liberia's economic problems. He however appealed for the separation of the structural adjustment programs under the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the IMF. A LINA [LIBERIA NEWS AGENCY] report quotes Minister Jones as saying the separation of the two programs into independent activities will contribute immensely to Liberia's debt repayment burden.

In remarks, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, Dr Princeton Lyman, said discussions at the symposium will help the U.S. Government better understand areas in which it could assist Liberia solve her economic problems. Dr Lyman thanked the Liberian Government and people for the warm hospitality accorded him and members of his delegation, who arrived in Monrovia recently to hold talks with the Liberian Government officials on the country's economic problems.

NIGERIA

Fighting Breaks Out Between Police, Sect
AB260925 Lagos NAN in English 0910 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Gombe (Bauchi) April 26 (NAN) — Fighting broke out between the Maitatsine religious group and the police in Gombe at about 5 am this morning, according to a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN).

The fighting started when the leader of the group, Yusufu Adamu resisted an attempt by a detachment of the police to arrest him in his Pantami enclave.

No official death toll was immediately available but hundreds of people including civilians, the police and members of the sect have been feared dead in the shoot out while most inhabitants of the town are deserting their homes as the shooting spread from the fanatics' Pantami ward to most parts of the town.

According to the NAN correspondents, the Army was drafted in some hours later to reinforce the police following the stiff resistance put up by the sect.

Movements of persons into the town has been stopped but lorries and commuters were seen evacuating families and properties out of the town.

Meanwhile shooting from both sides is still going on.

It will be recalled that residents of Pantami ward started deserting the area when the presence of the religious sect was discovered last week.

SENEGAL

PDS Spokesman Announces Release of Militants
AB251112 Paris AFP in French 0753 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Dakar, 25 Apr (AFP) — Eleven militants of the Senegalese Democratic Party [PDS], the main opposition party in the country, who were arrested on 16 April during a demonstration in Dakar, have been released, a PDS spokesman announced Wednesday.

The 11 militants, who were to be tried for participating in a gathering which was said to have disturbed public peace, were arrested outside one of the principal mosques in the center of Dakar. They had responded to the call of the PDS leader, Abdoulaye Wade, who had asked the people of Senegal to go to the mosques and churches every Tuesday morning as a sign of protest against the government. As the entrance to the mosque was barred by a police cordon, the PDS militants on 16 April held their prayers in the streets where 11 of them were arrested.

The PDS, which is the main opposition group in Senegal, has 8 seats in the National Assembly, against 111 seats of the (ruling) Socialist Party. However, it has decided to boycott the National Assembly sessions and has called for the formation of a "transitional national union government."

SIERRA LEONE

Presidential Elections To Take Place in Oct
AB251135 Paris AFP in French 0728 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Freetown, 25 Apr (AFP) — Voters in Sierra Leone will go to the polls in October to elect a new president, according to an official source in Freetown, who said that no official candidate has as yet been designated for the presidency.

No details were given on the exact date of the elections. The decision was made earlier this week at a meeting of the Central Committee of the All People's Congress (APC), the sole ruling party. The party's National Delegates Congress, which will nominate the sole candidate to the presidency, will be held in Freetown 4-7 July, announced Edward Tamba Kamara, the party's secretary general for administration. According to him, the smooth running of the presidential elections depended largely

on the preparation of the voters register to be completed in June. Campaigning is scheduled to last 3 months, he stated. The party's National Delegates Congress, which should have taken place in March under the chairmanship of President Siaka Stevens and which should have nominated the sole candidate for the presidential elections, was postponed because the preparation of the voters register had not been completed. The National Assembly, which should sit in May, will therefore extend for 6 more months the 7-year term of office of President Siaka Stevens which was to have ended in June, the source indicated.

TOGO

Chinese Party Delegation Arrives for Amity Tour

AB251511 Lome Domestic Service in French
0615 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpts] A delegation of the Communist Party of China arrived in Lome yesterday from the sister People's Republic of Benin for a friendly visit to our country. The 5-man delegation, which is led by Yang Haibo, alternate member of the CPC Central Committee, was met at the Messan Kondji border post by Yao Kunale Eklo, member of the Central Committee and administrative secretary of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT], along with the prefect of Lacs District, Biova Pennaneach, and the Chinese ambassador to Togo, Xing Minqing.

The delegation arrived in Lome about 1800 and, in a statement to the press, the leader of the Chinese delegation, Yang Haibo, discussed the purpose of their visit to Togo. He said they are in the country at the invitation of the RPT. He added that this friendly visit will contribute to strengthening relations between the CPC and the RPT.

During its stay, the Chinese delegation will talk about China's experiences in various sectors and hold discussions with officials of the RPT.

MOZAMBIQUE

Press Release on Sao Tomean President's Visit

MB260617 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 25 Apr 85

["Press release" read by Mozambican Minister of Foreign Affairs Joaquim Chissano at the end of visit to Mozambique by Sao Tome and Principe President Manuel Pinto da Costa in Maputo on 25 April — recorded]

[Text] The two presidents exchanged information about the internal situation in the respective countries, namely the economic and social situation, as well as the measures designed to solve the problems and overcome the difficulties emerging in the process of national development.

During his stay, the head of state of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe toured developing agricultural and industrial areas and applauded the efforts made by the Mozambican people in the struggle for a general and full development of the country. The Sao Tomean leader expressed his admiration for the measures adopted by the Frelimo Party and the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique under the leadership of President Samora Moises Machel in the struggle for economic recovery, in light of the hindrances inherited from colonialism, the natural disasters, and destabilization suffered by the country.

The president of the People's Repulic of Mozambique hailed President Manuel Pinto da Costa for the resolve and progress attained by the Sao Tomean people and government in the struggle for socioeconomic development. President Samora Moises Machel firmly condemned the campaign of misinformation and hostilities against the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, its people, the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe [MLSTP], and government organized by certain nostalgic circles of colonialism and neocolonialist forces. He reaffirmed the unreserved support of the people, the Frelimo Party, and the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique for the people, MLSTP, and government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe in their struggle against these enemy actions which are designed to destroy the gains of the Sao Tomean revolution. He hailed the measures that the MLSTP and the government, under the leadership of President Manuel Pinto da Costa, have adopted to combat those maneuvers and reorganize the national economy.

The two leaders reviewed the politico-military situation in southern Africa in light of the Sao Tome declaration. The two heads of state analyzed in depth the international conspiracy organized against the People's Republic of Mozambique and appealed to the international community to exert pressure upon the South African Government to fully implement the spirit and letter of the Nkomati Accord.

The acting chairman of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries reiterated the active solidarity and militant support of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe for the just struggle of Mozambique against the armed bandits for the defense of its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peace. He hailed the Mozambican people for the victories attained.

The heads of state considered that the main cause of instability and war in southern Africa is the continuation of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa and colonialism in Namibia. The two leaders reaffirmed their political, diplomatic, and moral support for the ANC in South Africa and SWAPO in Namibia. They vigorously condemned the bloody repression of the South African regime against the defenseless people who merely seek freedom and the end of apartheid. They also condemned South Africa's nonfulfillment of UN Resolution 435 and its attempts to remove SWAPO from the solution of the Namibian problem.

The two presidents assessed the level of fulfillment of the decisions of the fifth summit of the heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe which was held in the Sao Tomean capital. They hailed the growing political and diplomatic coordination among the five countries and the results that have already been attained in economic and social cooperation.

The president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe invited the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique to make a state visit to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and satisfaction. The dates will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

CPSU's Gustov-Led Delegation Arrives for Visit

MB251626 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Ivan Gustov, member of the Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the CPSU Control Committee, arrived in Maputo early this afternoon, leading a high-level delegation. The Soviet official was received at Mavalane Airport by Raimundo Pachinuapa, member of the Frelimo Party Central Committee.

Speaking to journalists at the airport, Ivan Gustov said he has traveled to our country at the invitation of the Frelimo Party, and that during his stay in Maputo the two delegations will exchange experiences and information under the terms of the agreements between the Frelimo Party and the CPSU. Ivan Gustov also mentioned the practical development of the relations between the two parties based on the implementation of tasks that have been outlined. He said that the visit by his delegation will greatly contribute to the strengthening of the existing friendship between the Mozambican and Soviet peoples and the two parties.

Ivan Gustov also discussed the recently held plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee which approved the decision to hold the 27th CPSU Congress on 25 February 1986. The agenda for the congress has already been approved.

Bulgarian Friendship Delegation Begins Talks

MB252015 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The Mozambican Association of Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples [AMASP] and the Bulgarian Solidarity With Peoples of Asia and Africa Committee began talks in Maputo today. The talks are designed to strengthen the relations of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Mozambique and Bulgaria. The delegations to the talks are led by Abner Sansao Muthemba, AMASP secretary general, and Colonel General Slavcho Trunski, chairman of the Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa Committee of Bulgaria, who arrived in Maputo yesterday.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Speaks in Debate on Foreign Affairs

Links With Renamo Viewed

MB251847 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1827 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] House of Assembly, April 25, SAPA — South Africa had trained and supported Renamo when Mozambique allowed itself to be used as a springboard for terrorist attacks on the republic, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today. If the same circumstances that prevailed then pertained at present, South Africa would have acted in the same way.

Speaking in the debate on the foreign affairs vote of the budget, Mr Botha said 90 percent of all terrorist attacks in South Africa, including the Pretoria car-bomb blast, had been planned in, and executed through Mozambique, which was then the main channel for ANC terrorists.

South Africa had warned Mozambique not to permit this to continue, "and when they would not listen, our troops took retaliatory action across the border."

"When they still did not stop, we helped Renamo. I want to affirm today that under similar circumstances, we would do it again," Mr Botha said.

After the signing of the Nkomati Accord South Africa had immediately ceased all help to Renamo which now should cease its violent activities, as it could not achieve military success.

He said the Conservative Party [CP] had criticised the government for leaving Renamo in the lurch by entering into the Nkomati Accord.

"We have nothing to hide," Mr Botha said. "Naturally there was a time when we helped train and support Renamo. There was such a time. Why? The honorable members are not so ignorant."

South Africa's aid to Renamo had achieved its aim as the Maputo government realised what the result could be and had signed the accord.

"We did not found Renamo, it was there.

"When South Africa's aim in helping Renamo had been achieved, help for the movement ceased.

"It's as simple as that."

Some members would say it was wrong and reprehensible: "But I have never considered reprehensible to place my country's interests first."

"Now it does not serve my purpose for Renamo to blow up a powerline in which I have a direct interest," Mr Botha said. It also was not in his interest to have the Maputo harbor threatened by the movement. He said the Nkomati Accord had brought about peace on the country's eastern front.

Mr Botha said there was a difference between the situations in Mozambique and Angola. The Frelimo government had been installed as the official government when the Portuguese left, whereas the MPLA in Angola were never a legitimate government.

Mr Botha said Dr Jonas Savimbi now appeared to have become the "bosom friend" of the CP. "Does the CP know that UNITA consists of whites and blacks and that all sit around a table together and eat. How does the CP feel about that?"

He said Dr Savimbi had been fighting in Angola for 24 years and did not need any assurances from South Africa.

Examines Defense Unit

MB251855 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] In the debate on his budget vote the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, expressed his satisfaction at South Africa's diplomatic links with its neighboring states. Referring to Mozambique in particular, he said that negotiations were underway with Maputo on the formation of a joint defensive unit to protect the two countries' mutual interests at the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme.

Mr Botha indicated that he did not foresee the SADF being involved. He pointed out that the project was an integral part of the ESCOM [Electricity Supply Commission] network. He also referred to the Maputo rail link and praised it as the cheapest export harbor for areas such as the eastern Transvaal. It would, therefore, be protected. For the first time Mr Botha acknowledged that South Africa had played a role in aiding RENAMO, but stressed that since the Nkomati Accord that had now stopped.

Views Namibian Elections

MB261127 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1120 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] House of Representatives, April 26, SAPA — There was not the "faintest chance" of free and fair elections in SWA/Namibia if South African troops in the territory had to be cut to

1,500, in terms of the UN's Resolution 435 independence plan, while 30,000 Cubans remained north of the border in Angola, the minsiter of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today.

He was replying to debate in the House of Representatives on his budget vote.

One of the most important aspects of Resolution 435 was the stipulation that there be "free and fair elections" after a seven-month transition period during which whatever number of South African troops were in the territory had to be scaled down to 1,500 and confined to two bases and monitored by UN transition assistance group forces.

"I want to ask you... could there be free and fair elections under these circumstances while 30,000 Cuban troops remain north of the border ... definitely not," Mr Botha said.

The leaders in SWA/Namibia themselves, and not only the white ones, agreed there would not be the faintest chance of free and fair elections taking place in such a situation because, even if they won, the (Cuban) troops would come over the border.

If SWAPO won the elections, it would take power, but if it lost, it would simply continue the war.

"Sooner or later, the Cuban trooops must go."

Responding to questions put to him during the debate by representatives on the financial burden SWA/Namibia was placing on South Africa, Mr Botha said the said the total for 1982/84 was rand 1,031 million, of which R450 million was for defence purposes.

"But I must warn that even if all South African troops were withdrawn from the territory, this money for defence would not be saved... it is part of the defence budget and the troops involved would do their training within South Africa.

"If we allow SWAPO to get away with achieving its aims by the barrel of the gun, we in South Africa will be in for a long and prolonged struggle... It will increase the appetite of those in the republic who think they can reach their goals through violence and spur them on to greater efforts," Mr Botha warned.

There were also large numbers of African National Congress cadres in Angola, "and I can tell you we know where they are."

He emphasised that if a settlement could be reached in SWA/Namibia which included SWAPO, his government would accept it.

The interim government for the territory, announced recently by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, would, no doubt, also not be recognised by the international community.

"But what does it matter ... according to the World Court, South Africa's presence there is illegal anyway."

South Africa remained committed to the achievement of an internationally acceptable solution for SWA/Namibia.

"But South Africa has made it clear to the West and the world that it has the right to, unilaterally, terminate its presence and administration in South-West Africa.

"I don't say we will do it, or that it is under consideration at this moment, but it is an option."

If South Africa did take this option and terminated its "illegal" presence in the territory, no-one would be able to hold it responsible for the consequences or demand that it continue to carry the financial burden.

STAR on Namibian Interim Government Plan

MB251551 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 19 Apr 85 p 10

[Editorial: "Namibia: Stirring the Murky Waters"]

[Text] What on earth — one might legitimately ask as the Namibian impasse nears the end of its fourth decade — does President Botha hope to achieve by reviving the old "interim internal government" ploy? Doesn't it raise suspicions all over again but about the sincerity of South Africa's settlement intentions? Won't it negate the good done by this week's constructive unilateral step, the pull-out of South African troops from Angola?

The political waters are murky, but it seems that the two Bothas are using the interim government card rather cautiously while still hoping for an exit of Cubans from Angola to allow a UN solution to proceed. They have been careful to fix no dates or deadlines; to spell out that the Multiparty Conference must first devise a constitutional plan giving it a popular mandate; that Pretoria will retain residual powers and that the interim government will not seek international recognition.

As long as there is a chance of implementing UN Resolution 435, said President Botha, South Africa will not act in a manner irreconcilable with the international settlement plan and will continue to negotiate with the UN. Meanwhile, the South African argument goes, the situation cannot drift on without direction. Local people must share in running the territory and Pretoria hopes to save on the costs of administration.

Unstated in public, but very much a factor behind the scenes, is that prospects of the Cubans leaving Angola are improving. Noises about the Cubans going home — at least in sufficient numbers to kindle South African and American hopes — have been coming from a variety of quarters, including Presidents Castro and Angola's Dos Santos. The pullout from southern Angola this week was meant to encourage this process.

Plans for an interim government will at least give the stagnant waters of settlement a stir. The stage has been set for a new round of negotiations. If these do not succeed Pretoria has signalled its intention to go ahead with a unilateral solution and defy world opinion.

STAR Views Role of U.S. Companies, Disinvestment

MB251546 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 12 Apr 85 p 8

[Editorial: "But the Economy Is Not Divisible"]

[Text] Disinvesment and the role of foreign investors in this country remain emotive and confusing issues. In the United States the anti-apartheid movement launched a two-week protest last Thursday, aimed at persuading leading universities such as Harvard, Stanford and Yale to withdraw funds from South African-related companies. There have also been moves in Congress to introduce legislation to block American investment here.

In this country, the United Democratic Front staged a protest at the offices of Citibank in Johannesburg. It accused the American bank of helping to provide financial backbone for apartheid. The UDF further charged that overseas investors remained silent every time South Africa violated human rights and had only pretensions of concern for the oppressed.

The bank replied that there was a lack of appreciation for the role of foreign companies. What is that role? Other than the obvious vacuum which the withdrawal of capital would cause, there would also be a loss of know-how and managerial skills. The National Productivity Institute points out that about 700 000 South Africans are economically dependent on U.S. companies. It says: "The presence of American corporations has raised skill levels across a broad section. This process has conferred most benefits on the black people of this country and they would undoubtedly suffer most from U.S. disinvestment."

The multi-nationals are not blameless. Their first concern, after all, is to make profits. But those who seek disinvestment should carefully consider the economic decline — possibly an irretrievable one — that would result. It is not true that only the white capitalists will suffer. The financial cake may have to be cut again, but the economy itself is not divisible. U.S. companies can obviously achieve more by working to improve South Africa from within.

Minister of Health Dies in Bloemfontein 26 Apr

MB260542 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] The minister of health and welfare, Dr Nak van der Merwe, has died in the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein. Dr van der Merwe, who was 64 years old, underwent a heart bypass operation in the hospital last year. Dr van der Merwe, who was leader of the National Party in the Free State, was admitted to hospital on Tuesday afternoon suffering from a mouth and throat infection. He passed away while asleep at 1:45 am this morning. The superintendent of the Universitas Hospital, Dr David van den Berg, said Dr van der Merwe's condition was satisfactory after his admission.

Dr van der Merwe became administrator of the Free State on 14 December 1979. He became leader of the National Party in the province in October 1980, and was appointed to the cabinet as minister of water affairs and forestry in the same year. Dr van der Merwe was admitted to the Universitas Hospital in September last year after a heart attack. He underwent a heart bypass operation, and after the operation he resumed his duties as minister of health, and welfare and as chairman of the Ministers' Council for White Affairs.

Dr van der Merwe leaves his wife, Maudi, three sons, and a daughter.

Defense Minister Discusses Soviet Arms Supply

MB251837 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, says the Soviet Union is supplying South Africa's neighbors with more weapons than they need for their defense in order to destabilize the subcontinent.

Speaking on his department's budge vote in the House of Representatives, Gen Malan, said the greater the success of the country's continued attempts at reform, the more desperate the forces of anarchy would become. Gen Malan said the arms supply to the subcontinent had increased dramatically in the past 2 years. In that time the number of tanks had increased by 508 to 1,642 and the number of military aircraft by 715.

Army Chief on Troop Withdrawal From Angola

MB251700 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1950 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Interview with General Jannie Geldenhuys, chief of the Army, on "To Tell the Truth" program by Willem de Klerk; monitored in progress; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Geldenhuys]...stipulate the solution, then one could harm the atmosphere and the individual trust between the negotiators, if one used aggressive military action. So, at that time there was only a presence inside South-West Africa. But, I am convinced that if one asked any militarist how he would like to act against a terrorist organization, to be most effective, then most probably he would say: First, I want to attack him at his base. But, for the reasons I have given, this did not take place. That was when that unfortunate lull in the negotiations occurred. I think it was on 27 February 1979 that the then secretary, Waldheim, presented his report to the Security Council, according to which SWAPO bases would not be monitored, while our security force bases would be monitored. According to that report, SWAPO bases would be designated when a peace agreement was reached, or under a cease-fire agreement. Those were unacceptable conditions.

[De Klerk] So actually, we went into Angola because the SWAPO bases were no longer being monitored, and to hit the enemy on his home ground?

[Geldenhuys] I was going to say that. With the political silence, and the lull in the negotiations, and while SWAPO was using that freedom of movement to build itself up, a point was reached that one could no longer tolerate. But it, of course — the government had to decide whether such a step could be taken.

[De Klerk] But were we in Angola only to clear up SWAPO bases, or were we also there to assist UNITA and Dr Savimbi?

[Geldenhuys] No, certainly not. It involved SWAPO bases exclusively. While on this subject, we also have a responsibility. Its not only a matter of war for the sake of war, but — by way of example — every year since 1976 SWAPO organizes a major offensive when the rainy season begins, and then they try to penetrate as far as possible and spread terror to gain publicity, so the further forward one can meet them, the better your chance is of defending your people.

[De Klerk] General, does international law approve of this, that one crosses one's border to strike at the enemy? I mean, is it accepted practice in international law?

[Geldenhuys] I would not say that, technically speaking, by law we are speaking about a war — in the sense that it is not between two states, and that it is not a declared war. But war, and the use of violence, is recognized by international law as a means of settling differences, [words indistinct].

[De Klerk] Now, why are we out of Angola? You have told us why we are in Angola. Why are we out?

[Geldenhuys] While we are seeking a solution to a problem various means are being used, militarily, politically, diplomatically, and so forth, and it is well known that the government is very seriously using other means of finding solutions to differences. We have the Nkomati Accord and the Lusaka Agreement. As a result of the Lusaka Agreement an effort is being make to create peace and stability on that border area, and therefore certain decisions have been taken such as a withdrawal from Angola.

[De Klerk] It has cost many lives and much money, General, I know that it is alleged — if I have my statistics right — that we have lost more or less 600 persons in the Angolan operation. A Professor (Green), an economic advisor at the United Nations, alleges that the number of men lost is 2,500 and seen professionally it is three times higher than the Americans lost in Vietnam. If it was worth it, the first question is have we lost so many people as alleged by (Green), and the second question: Was it worth it financially?

[Geldenhuys] You know, I cannot give you offhand the figures for every operation every year, but I have enough general knowledge to tell you that those figures of which he — (Green) — is speaking is absolutely, totally incorrect. Administrative war statistics show that our results are unequaled. You know that in places such as Algeria, Malaya, and so on 7 soldiers are used for every terrorist and in some instances 14 soldiers for every terrorist. We use the ratio of only 1.6 soldiers for every terrorist and our casualty figures for both the enemy and ourselves are the best that I have ever experienced.

[De Klerk] So it is an exaggeration that Angola was something of a Vietnam for us as it was for the Americans.

[Geldenhuys] Absolutely. I would say that the Vietnam comparison could be seen in a different way and that is that it is not impossible, no matter how powerful it might be, that Angola could become a Vietnam for the Soviet Union.

[De Klerk] I follow. I am going to ask a few more pessimistic questions surrounding this issue — not because I stand behind the question — but they are questions being asked by the public. For example, the aim was to defeat SWAPO and we have been busy with that for many years and SWAPO has not been defeated. Can we now say we have not succeeded in our aim?

[Geldenhuys] No. Let us look first at what have we achieved over the past few years in operations against SWAPO. In the meantime great administrative developments have taken place: the state machinery in South-West Africa has been centralized under Windhoek, where the departments were previously controlled from Pretoria and Cape Town. It is an administrative and political development closer to independence, closer to a solution. We have also had the situation where SWAPO conducted an unequal struggle to its advantage politically and militarily, since it is regarded as the only legal mouthpiece of the people of South-West Africa. I think in the past few years by trying to defeat SWAPO's military wing we have made politics more just.

[De Klerk] The victory of the war lies in the fact that it created a political possibility for stability and not so much in the actual physical defeat of the enemy. Is that correct?

[Geldenhuys] You are absolutely correct, because in that time contacts existed with African states, with Western countries, with the United Nations, and now the United States, and all these negotiations bring us closer to a solution every time, but I must say, while you say SWAPO returns, it returns with less people every time. If we take the figures for the present and for 1978, then they are precisely 50 percent of what they were then. So SWAPO's numbers are surely but certainly diminishing.

[De Klerk] Will Angola be able to contain SWAPO now that we have withdrawn from Angola? The undertaking from them is that they too will monitor SWAPO and not allow them to set up bases. Is that correct?

[Geldenhuys] That is correct.

[De Klerk] Do you think Angola has the manpower and the will to actually do this?

[Geldenhuys] Well, I would like to say that I hope that they can do it. Whether they have the will or the capability, and if they are allowed to do it, these are answers the future will tell us. I personally think that if they really want to they can do it. If it does not happen then the situation could arise where the security of South-West Africa is threatened to such an extent by SWAPO — and we must not forget the Cubans and the Angolan Army — that a serious situation could be created.

[De Klerk] You say: If they are allowed to. Are you referring to the Russian influence in Angola?

[Geldenhuys] Let me give you a practical illustration. In one of their previous annual incursions SWAPO attacked at precisely the same time that the South African Government was holding

negotiations with Angola on the Cape Verde Islands. The Angolan Government should have realized that that was not beneficial to allow SWAPO to stage such a large incursion, the biggest one ever at that point in time, for successful negotiations if one is really concerned about reaching a solution. I believe that they — the Angolans — want a solution to this problem.

[De Klerk] You could say the Angolans are a little bit tired of the Russian bosses?

[Geldenhuys] That is possible.

[De Klerk] Does Russia really still have an effective grip on Angola?

[Geldenhuys] I think so, yes.

[De Klerk] Do you think the Cubans will be withdrawn?

[Geldenhuys] No, I think there are new possibilities. There are two reasons: First, the Angolans have frequently said that the reasons for the Cuban presence is that they are threatened by the SADF, and now that the SADF has withdrawn from the area that threat disappears. Second, there are publicly known facts which indicate that Cuba is suffering from military fatigue, that it does not want to see its soldiers sent to other parts of the world, particularly Angola, where they die or are maimed.

[De Klerk] What if the Cubans — there is another theory which says they will be withdrawn — are withdrawn northward to the northern parts of Angola, and as soon as everything is more or less finalized they then are sent back to attack Savimbi. Is there such a possibility or such a strategically possible plan in this connection?

[Geldenhuys] I think that it is possible that there will probably not be a complete withdrawal of Cubans, maybe a partial withdrawal accompanied by a push back of those in the south to the northern parts, but naturally I am suspicous about the lack of other assurances in the face of such a possibility.

[De Klerk] Is there a possibility that we could be tricked by the Cuban withdrawal.

[Geldenhuys] Yes. You see we are in Africa, and it was not long ago that two attacks occurred from Angola across the border into Zaire in the Shaba Province — formerly Katanga — in which the Cubans played an important role. We must not shut our eyes to that sort of adventure.

[De Klerk] If we who are out — and you said we would not be there to help Savimbi — and we are tricked and the Cubans are deployed against Savimbi. What is Savimbi's capability, General? Will he survive without us or have we not helped him in his struggle?

[Geldenhuys] I have — I could actually say I am at peace about the war between the MPLA and UNITA, and I see the Lusaka Agreement and our entry into Angola and our withdrawal... [change of thought] what has it for us, how does it advance out interests? I have peace about the struggle between UNITA and the MPLA.

[De Klerk] I understand what you are saying. Generally from your experience, what is the military power of UNITA? Are they strong and are they capable?

[Geldenhuys] Let me tell you in the first place that UNITA has for many years and in the period which we are speaking about never had a presence in the Cunene Province, and that is the area we are talking about. While our operations have come and gone, UNITA made great progress and I cannot see anything happening, all things considered, to halt its progress.

[De Klerk] General, what would you say are the advantages and disadvantages of our withdrawal, if there are disadvantages?

[Geldenhuys] I think the first and most important advantage is that the South African Government is trying hard to bring peace and stability to southern Africa, but it does not help only to say one is seeking peace. One must show that one has the will to carry it out and one should demonstrate that it is possible. I think the government is seriously trying to bring about peace. The withdrawal of troops from Angola is certainly a peace gesture. It is not totally without a measure of risk. I think it is a tremendous step forward.

[De Klerk] If SWAPO builds itself up will we be forced theroretically to return to Angola? Is that door open to us or will it become an international incident if the Angolans do not abide by the agreement and SWAPO begins to build up great striking power inside Angola that would threaten South-West Africa and force us to return to Angola? Do you think it is theoretically possible?

[Geldenhuys] That would be a political decision, but if such a serious situation arises then the question would arise: What must we do? Can we go on as now or must more drastic steps be taken?

[De Klerk] General Geldenhuys, I want to move to another issue before I come to the internal unrest. I want to make two controversial statements which are frequently made by people who do not know the SADF so well. The first statement is: The SADF and the politicians are in conflict with each other. The politicians want to do one thing and the SADF wants to do another. The other statement is that the SADF is really the military wing of the present government and, as is typical of Africa, the SADF and the government are so closely linked that it is really improper. Can you give us an answer to the SADF-state relationship?

[Geldenhuys] I think it is good that you asked the question because there are perceptions, and I think they are false perceptions, and it is good to look at them. You know in the first instance we are in a situation of conflict, and in a situation of conflict there are always parties who try to advance their interests by means of one form or another of propaganda warfare. Such perceptions are consciously created. But now I can tell you that I can only say it is ridiculous. It is not a question of militarists on the one hand and politicians on the other hand. In South Africa we have an organized system. There is the government, and there is the defense force, and there are methods which the government uses

to take decisions and the defense force can, in some of the decisions, become involved in the decisionmaking process, and then there are decisions taken by the government which the defense force carries out.

[De Klerk] The defense force must carry them out. That is its function. It cannot go against the government's decisions.

[Geldenhuys] That is correct. The defense force in any system must carry out the decision of the government of the day.

[De Klerk] General, I want to come to the role of the SADF in internal unrest. There is much criticism. I will mention the criticisms quickly and you can answer them quickly. The first criticism is that it creates the impression of a civil war. Suddenly residents of a black residential area awaken and look into the barrel of a gun of his own defense force. How do you feel about this accusation?

[Geldenhuys] I think this is a very good illustration. If I was the mastermind behind an organization which supports unrest, then naturally I would discredit the defense force because it will advance my cause. If we always ask these questions then we miss other important questions. Let us see who are our people. We have people who want to work. We have people who want to ride a bus. We have people who want their children to attend school and who are prevented by violence from performing that right. We, for the most part, are there to protect those people to give then that freedom of movement.

[De Klerk] Is that not the work of the police the critic says.

[Geldenhuys] No. The work of the police is not only the protection of the nation but to fight against those who contravene the law. Therefore they have the manpower necessary. We do not arrest peopple.

[De Klerk] You just maintain order, you are maintaining a presence at unrest points.

[Geldenhuys] Let me tell you we have to be practical as well. You know it is difficult to conduct 50 school children through the Pretoria Zoo even though it an organized group of people, but if one has a crowd of a few thousand who do not necessarily want order, then naturally it can happen that one becomes involved in incidents which deviates from the policy as I have put it to you.

[De Klerk] Doesn't it seem like panic, say the critics, that suddenly the defense force is sent in, which has repercussions and allegations that the police are not strong enough to maintain the situation.

[Geldenhuys] I think that the word suddenly is not proper here. The law makes provision for military intervention is such cases. Then, when the laws were made, it was seen as a normal role of the defense force. Suddenly is improper for this reason that our history is full of cases where the defense force played such a role.

[De Klerk] And the defense forces of other countries, as far as internal unrest is concerned?

[Geldenhuys] Ireland, America, I cannot think of any incident where a country's defense force does not play a role in internal unrest.

[De Klerk] General, two more questions. The first is the pessimism by some people who say the revolutionary powers will eventually be victorious in southern Africa. It is just a question of time. What is your reaction to this as a militarist?

[Geldenhuys] I feel that it is propagandist doctrine in the sense that Mao Zedong had it in his doctrine and it is accepted and believed but it is not necessarily true. He said time is on the side of the terrorist. It is not so. Time is on the side of one who makes the best use of it. Time itself is normal. I think that in our situation there is not only hope that the terrorist can be beaten, the indications are that he is being beaten. If you are a student of conflict, then you must know that other than a conventional war, it takes longer to being to conclusion a terrorist type of conflict.

[De Klerk] General Geldenhuys, many thanks for the interview.

Slabbert Offers To Act as 'Go-Between' With ANC

MB260517 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2056 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Cape Town, April 25, SAPA — The leader of the opposition, Dr Frederick van zyl Slabbert, tonight offered to act as a go-between between the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, and exiled ANC leader Mr Oliver Tambo.

He said he was making the offer with "equal sincerity" to that of President Botha, who last week invited opposition parties in South Africa to join an extended special cabinet committee to negotiate with blacks.

Dr Slabbert was asked to comment on a newspaper report from Washington today, quoting Mr Tambo as saying he had offered to hold talks with Pretoria on extending democracy to the country's black majority.

According to the report, published prominently in South African afternoon newspapers, Mr Tambo appeared to drop several demands the ANC had previously said were preconditions to negotiating with Pretoria — including the release of Nelson Mandela and other jailed ANC members and the abolition of the apartheid system.

But Mr Tambo said he had little hope of his offer being accepted by the South African Government, which had demanded that the ANC reject violence as a pre-condition to negotiations. He said the ANC could not renounce the use of force as it felt the armed struggle was one of several tools necessary to force Pretoria to abandon apartheid.

Asked to comment, Dr Slabbert made the following statement: "I implore President Botha and his government not to dismiss Mr Tambo's offer out of hand. The presence of violence in our land is too serious and the need for peace and negotiation too important.

"President Botha has said he is willing to negotiate on behalf of his government, although it is still trapped in the policy of apartheid. Mr Tambo has said he is willing to negotiate on behalf of the ANC, although it is still pursuing a strategy of violence.

"The PFP abhors apartheid and completely rejects violence. However, we are uncompromisingly committed to negotiation as a way to solve South Africa's problems. That is why I accepted on behalf of the PFP to serve on the enlarged cabinet committee when the president made the offer. I believe the president was sincere in making the offer. With equal sincerity, I offer to act as a go-between between President Botha and Mr Tambo to establish whether there is a way of peace and negotiation.

"In this way there will be no strings attached and neither President Botha nor Mr Tambo need feel compromised. But I believe a very important contact will have been established. I am willing to meet Mr Tambo as soon as possible and wherever it is convenient. However, such a meeting will only have real negotiating significance if both Mr Tambo and the president are willing to accept the role of a go-between in order to explore the possibility of future negotiations."

Dr Slabbert said he had never met Mr Tambo.

Minister Says Fence Not 'Mini-Iron Curtain'

MB251222 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The deputy minister of defense and of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, says the electrified fence between South Africa and Zimbabwe, which was erected as an experiment, should not be seen as a mini-Iron Curtain.

In an interview with our parliamentary staff, Mr Vlok said the border remained open at control points and that the fence was merely erected to facilitate easy border control and to control livestock theft.

He said border control was a common occurrence throughout the world to facilitate orderly movement between countries. He expressed his regret at the death of a person who shocked himself on the fence after trying to cut through it. Everything possible was being done to precent innnocent people from being electrocuted by the fence.

1 Killed, 11 Injured in Continuing Unrest

MB261112 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1104 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Pretoria, April 26, SAPA — Police today reported another death in continuing unrest.

Eleven people were injured and 12 arrested in rioting in the Johannesburg area, the East Rand and the Eastern Cape.

A body "charred beyond recognition" was found by police at Redhouse, near Port Elizabeth, while at Noupoort 11 people were arrested after being injured when police dispersed crowds with tearsmoke and shotguns. Another man was arrested in Alicedale after a policeman's house was stoned.

In Soweto, Johannesburg, delivery vehicles were stoned by "delinquents" in Moroka and Meadlowlands, while a store was looted by "criminal elements," police reported. Two Putco buses [Public Utility Transport Corporation] buses were also stoned and police used tearsmoke to disperse "groups of young thugs."

Buses were stoned in Tembisa and Kwa Thema on the East Rand, and in Katlehong police used tearsmoke to scatter a crowd of 600 who stoned a private vehicle.

Members of the South African Defence Force extinguished a fire started in a bus by a man who first ordered passengers off at gun-point in New Brighton, near Port Elizabeth, according to the report.

In another incident, SADF personnel extinguished a fire in a Kirkwood store.

Police reported petrol-bombing incidents at New Brighton, Kwazekele and Noupoort, at Tinus near Beaufort West and Joza near Grahamstown.

A New Brighton school principal's house and a policeman's house were petrol-bombed, while three bombs were hurled at the SAP single quarters in Kwazekele. Damage to the policeman's house was extensive.

A house in Joza was petrol-bombed but not damaged, while a private vehicle was badly damaged after being petrol-bombed. Another house was petrol-bombed in Tinus. Police reported incidents of stonethrowing at Alicedale. Kwazekele, Graaf-Reinet, Grahamstown, Kimberley and Noupoort. In all incidents, police used tearsmoke, rubber bullets and in "isolated" cases shotgun fire.

ZIMBABWE

Chamber of Commerce Signs Pact With USSR

MB260734 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The president of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, ZNCC, Comrade Ernest Chiweshe, says financial institutions in Zimbabwe must transform their operations so that they assist emergent businessmen. Comrade Chiweshe told newsmen yesterday that the government and financial institutions should work together to find solutions to the financial problems facing small-scale businessmen. He said emergent businessmen find it impossible to establish manufacturing enterprises, because of lack of capital. Comrade Chiweshe recently returned from the USSR, where he was the guest of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The two Chambers of Commerce signed a cooperation agreement under which relations between these organizations will be strengthened. Comrade Chiweshe said there will be a continuous exchange of information between the two Chambers of Commerce leading to the establishment of trade.